ALL ABOUT HISTORY

Rebuilding Britain
How one nation rose from the wreckage of World War II

VE DAY 70

CHE GUEVARA EXPOSED
Was there a dark side to Cuba's revolutionary hero?

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR
Why its bloodiest battle won the fight for freedom

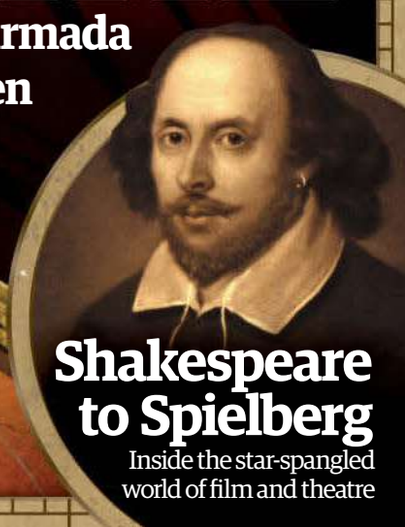
+ History of sport
Witch trials
Berlin Wall
Globe theatre
Ancient oracles

HOW ELIZABETH'S PIRATES STOLE THE

TUDOR EMPIRE

Raleigh's race to America • Drake vs the Spanish Armada • Elizabeth I: The dirty tricks of a pirate queen

Rise of the Ottomans
From a humble tribe to an unstoppable global force



Shakespeare to Spielberg
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Read more about VE Day in our 70th anniversary feature on page 42

Welcome

At its height, the British Empire was the largest the world had ever seen. But decades before Francis Drake had even left an English port, the Spanish and Portuguese had secured a firm grip on several colonies around the world, setting themselves far ahead of the race. When Elizabeth I came to the throne, she saw the riches her European rivals were bringing home and decided that England too should have a place on the podium. And she was willing to use every dirty trick in the book to get there.

From page 30, we reveal the tactics Tudors used to win the New World, from pirates parading as 'privateers' to the exploitation of their swindled states. On page 42, we celebrate 70 years since the end of World War II with a special VE Day feature, discovering how Britain got itself back on its feet, and on page 64 we expose a darker side to Che Guevara.

If you finish the issue before the next one hits the shelves, fear not. Our website is stacked with juicy articles for your to sink your teeth into whenever you feel the history hunger pangs. Just head to www.historyanswers.co.uk.

Alicea

Alicea Francis
Deputy Editor

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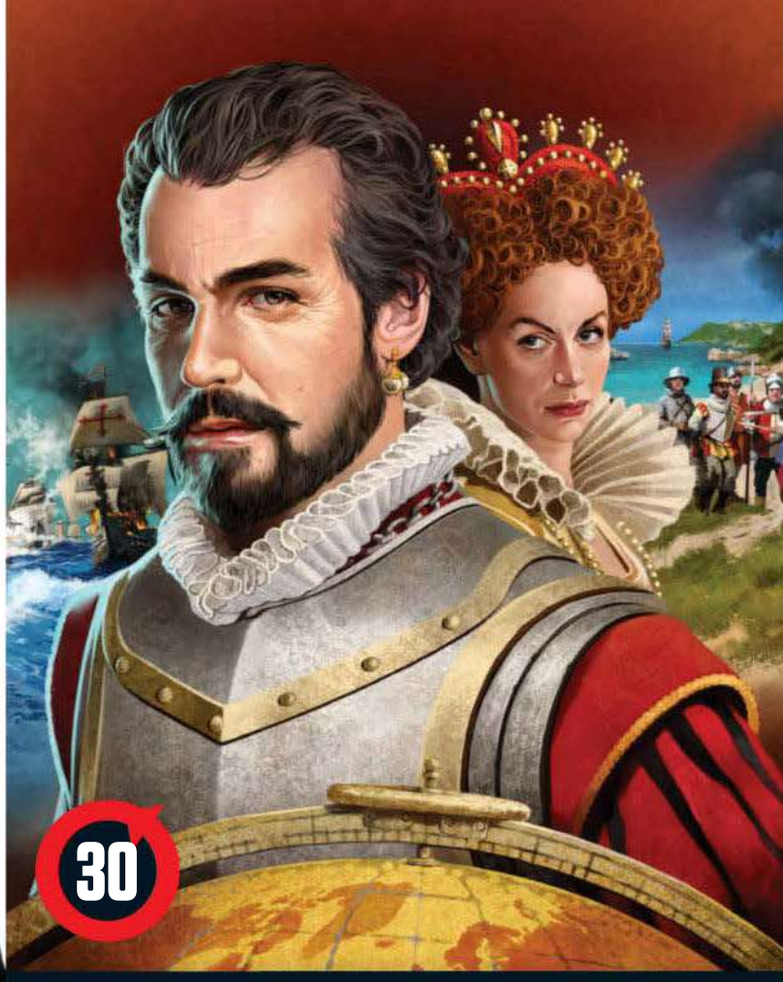

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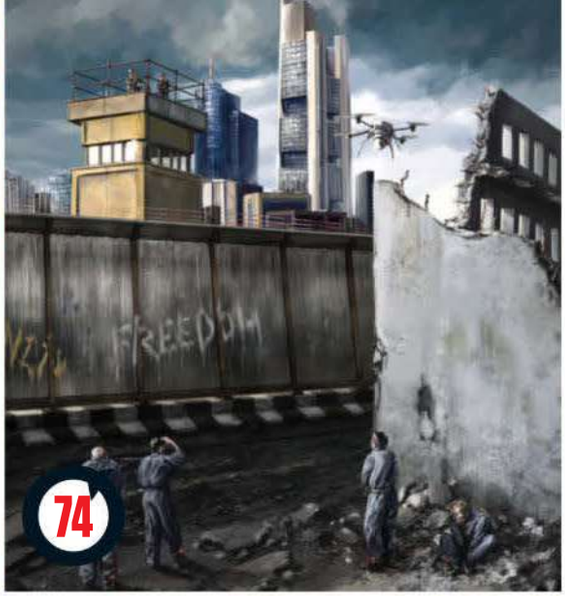

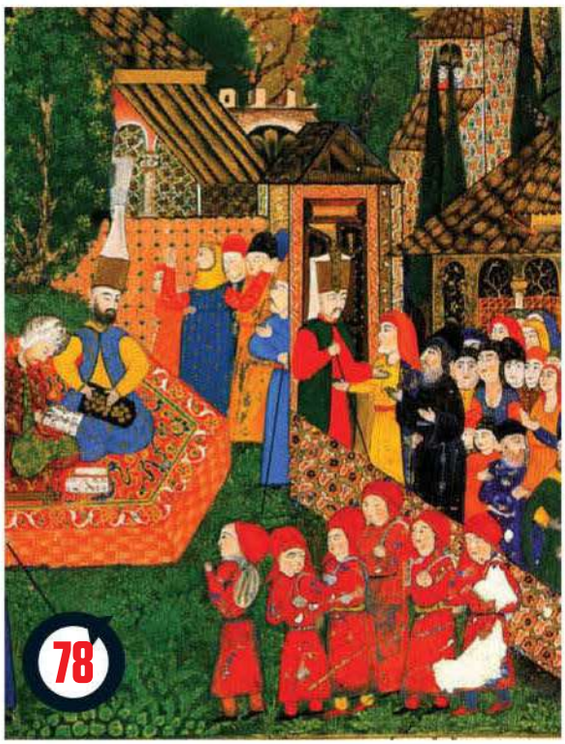

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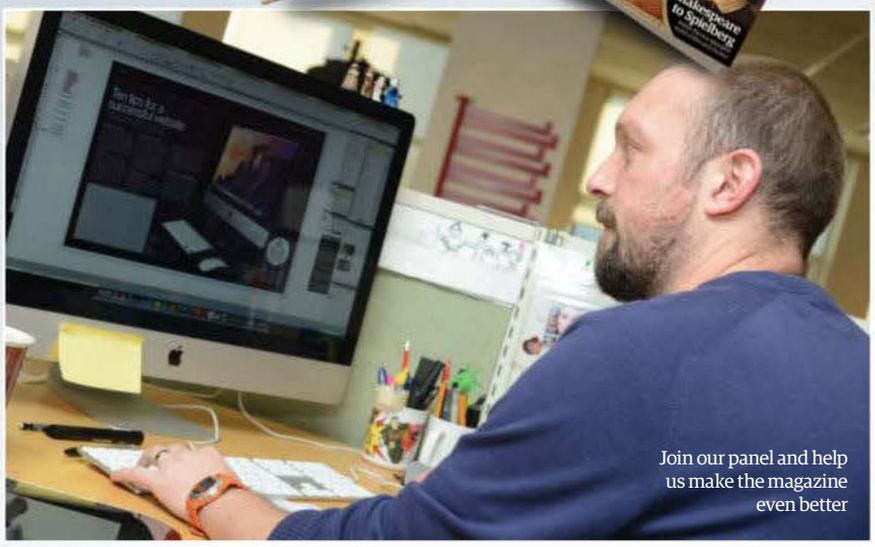
Alicea Francis
Deputy Editor



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HISTORY IN COLOUR

SEEKING SHELTER

With German shells screaming overhead, two US soldiers of C Company, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, seek shelter and take a well-earned short break behind the safety of an M-4 Sherman tank. In the background can be seen the ruins of the town of Geich, Germany, which came under heavy shell fire during World War II.

1944

© Jared Enos

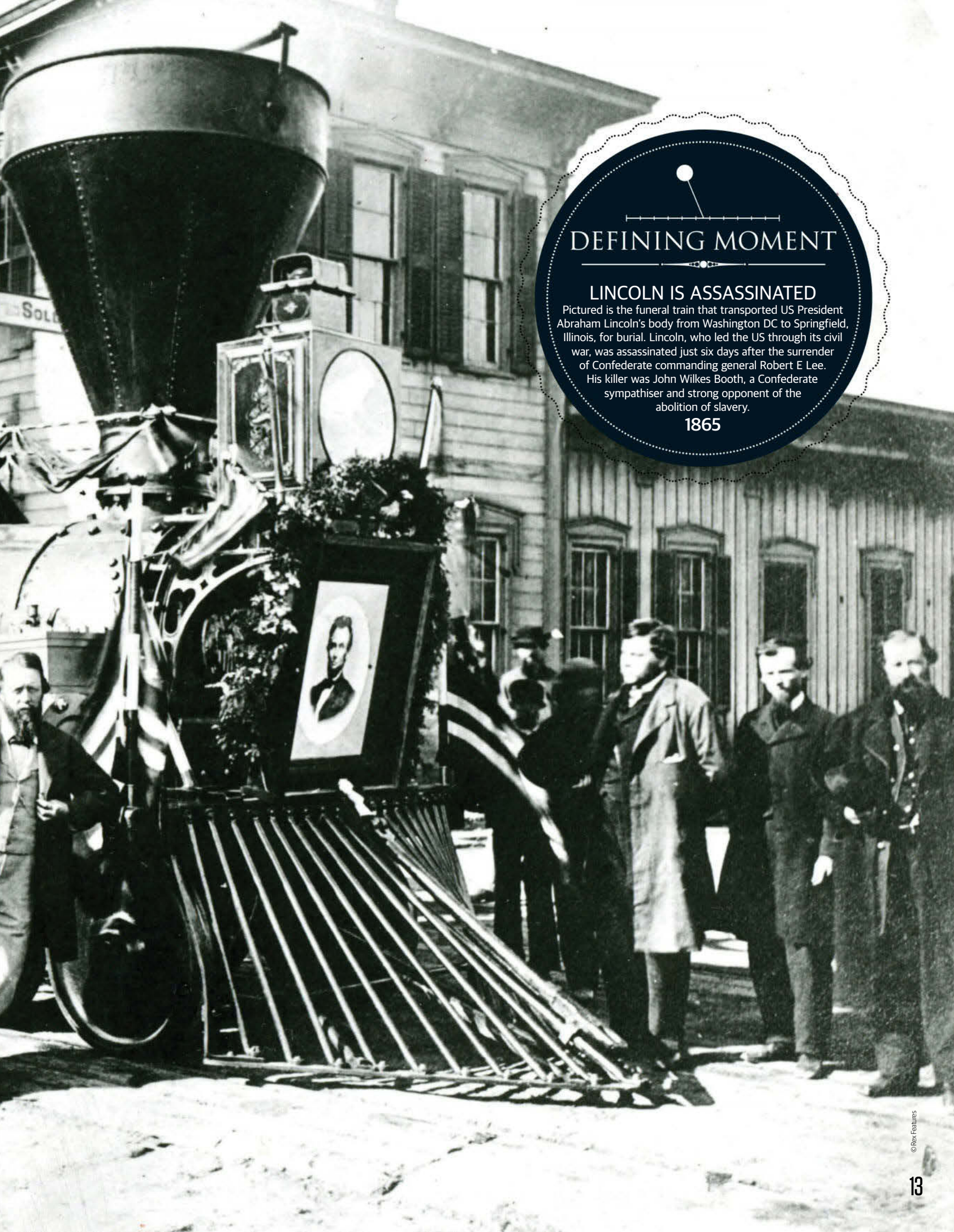
DEFINING MOMENT

THE MUPPETS COME TO LIFE

The Muppets creator Jim Henson poses with his 'Muppets', a word created by combining 'marionette' and 'puppet'. His signature puppet, Kermit the Frog, was the first to appear on television in the hit TV show *Sam And Friends*. Since then, his characters have become the stars of multiple TV series and films including *The Muppet Show,* from 1976-1981, and *Sesame Street,* which began in 1969 and is still on today.

1955

© Rex Features



DEFINING MOMENT

LINCOLN IS ASSASSINATED

Pictured is the funeral train that transported US President Abraham Lincoln's body from Washington DC to Springfield, Illinois, for burial. Lincoln, who led the US through its civil war, was assassinated just six days after the surrender of Confederate commanding general Robert E Lee. His killer was John Wilkes Booth, a Confederate sympathiser and strong opponent of the abolition of slavery.

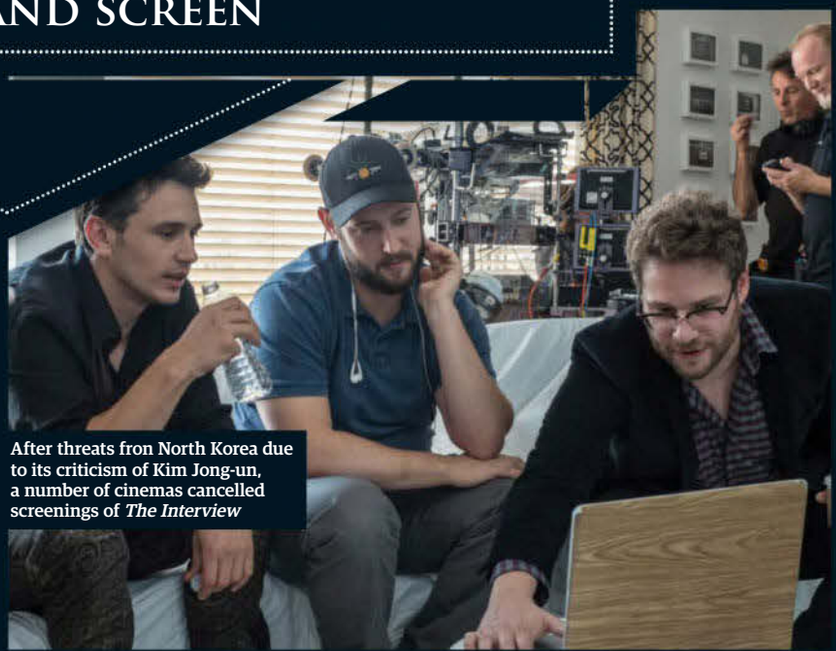
1865

© Rex Features

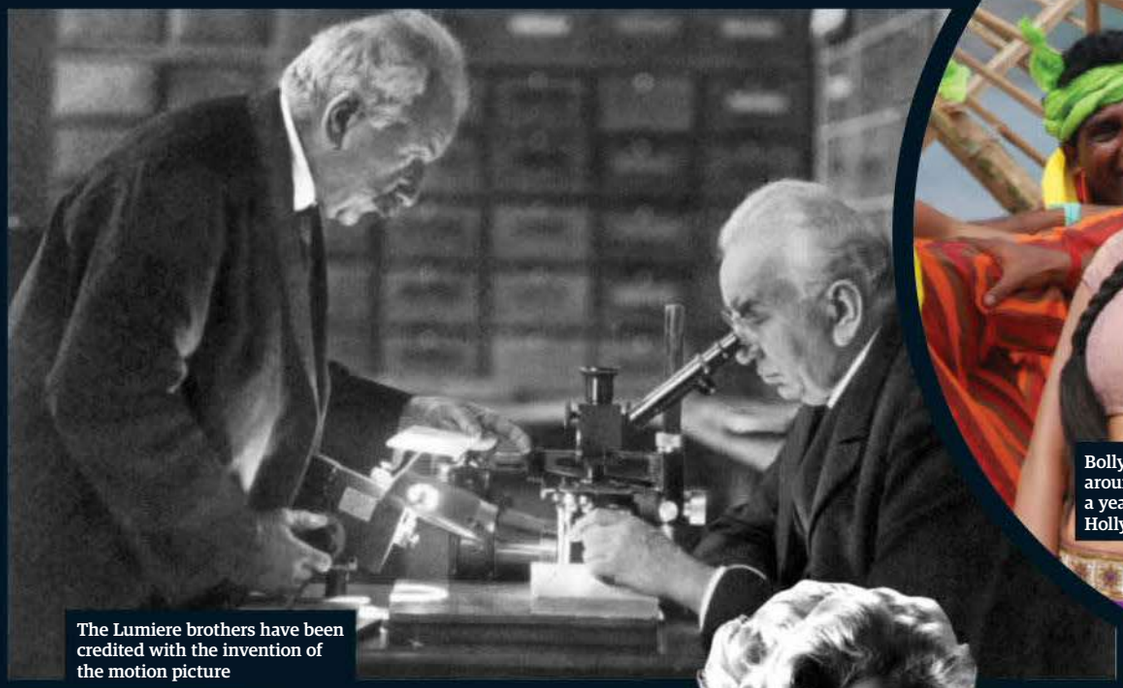
Theatre & Film

12 PAGES OF STORYTELLING ON STAGE AND SCREEN

Mr Punch made his first recorded appearance in England in 1662

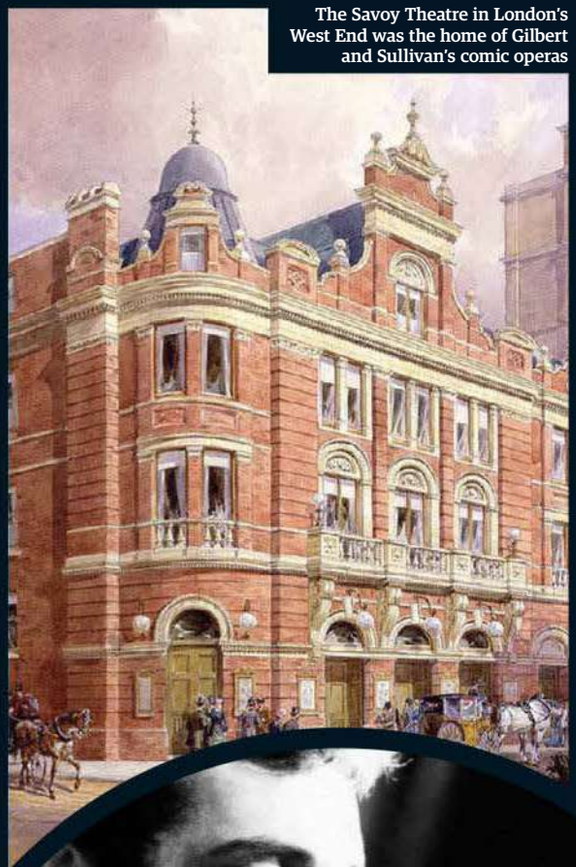


After threats fron North Korea due to its criticism of Kim Jong-un, a number of cinemas cancelled screenings of *The Interview*

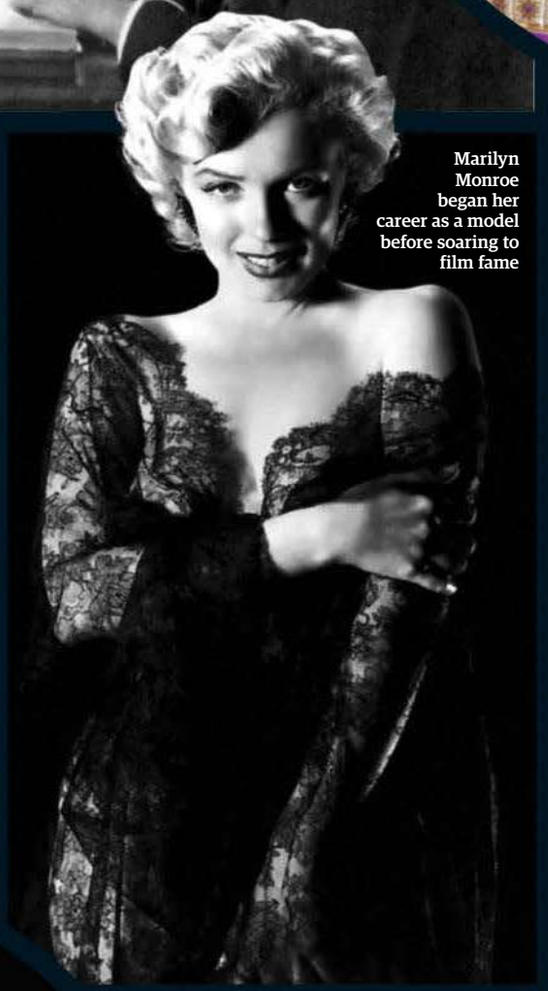


The Lumiere brothers have been credited with the invention of the motion picture

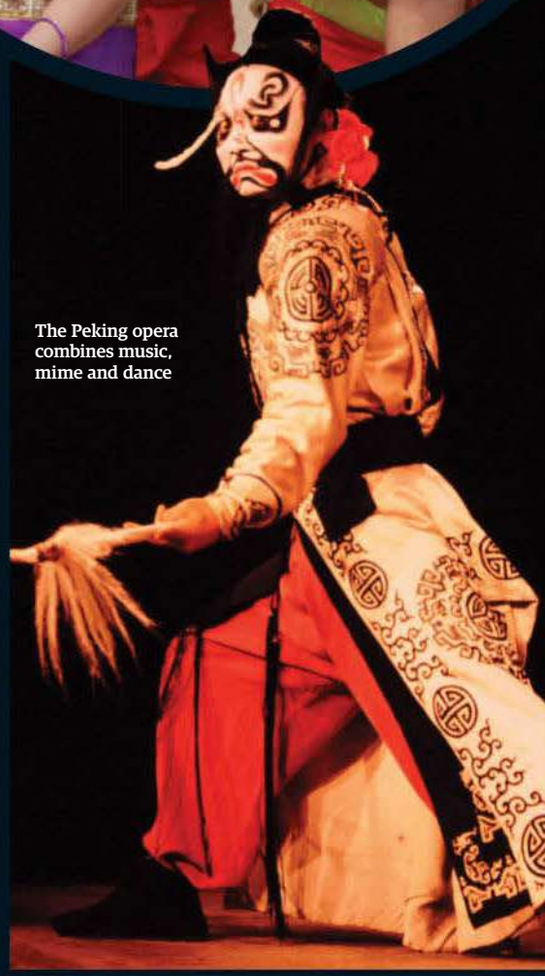
Bollywood produces around 1,000 movies a year - double that of Hollywood



The Savoy Theatre in London's West End was the home of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operas



Marilyn Monroe began her career as a model before soaring to film fame



The Peking opera combines music, mime and dance

Shakespeare's 16th-century play *Hamlet* is still performed today

The Roman theatre at Bosra, Syria, is one of the largest of its time

© Alamy/Rex Features/Getty Images

The stage across history

THEATRE IS BORN
GREECE 700 BCE

Although 'performance' did exist in ritual form prior, it was Greek theatre that truly served as the start of Western traditions. Beginning as festivals to the god Dionysus, more structured dramas involving myths and songs gradually emerged. Soon theatrical contests became highly popular events and distinct forms of theatre – tragedy and comedy – were formed. Great auditoriums were built for spectators to gather for these performances, which usually lasted from early in the morning until the evening.

The Delphi theatre in Greece can accommodate five thousand spectators

It's not over until...
EUROPE 15TH-19TH CENTURY

Opera emerged in the late 16th century with Jacopo Peri's *Dafne*. Originally created in an effort to revive Greek Drama, operatic productions combined musical score with a theatrical setting. Initially performances were confined to court audiences, but opera soon entered the public realm to rousing success and attracted talented composers the world over. Although the mid to late 19th century, when Wagner and Verdi ruled the opera scene, is considered the golden age, to this day opera continues to attract a wide audience, and productions have even been written for radio and television.

The Palais Garnier in Paris is one of the most famous opera houses in the world

Theatre & film timeline

- **Theatre in ancient Rome** The father of Roman Drama, Livius Andronicus, pens his early tragedy and comedy plays. They become the first Latin plays of ancient Rome. **240 BCE**
- **Spain gets artsy** The golden age of Spanish theatre sees an incredible 10-30,000 plays published in the country. **1590-1681**
- **Comedy is restored** After the puritan regime bans theatre for 18 years, comedy finally returns in grand style with racier content encouraged by Charles II. **1660-1710**
- **France gets dramatic** August von Kotzebue's *Misanthropy And Repentance* is performed in France for the first time. It marks the beginning of melodrama as the popular dramatic form. **1789**
- **A historic double act** Gilbert and Sullivan's first collaboration *Thespis* takes to the stage. It is the beginning of a partnership that will profoundly affect musical theatre. **1871**

Theatre in ancient Rome became more popular than chariot racing and gladiator duels

In 1881, the Savoy Theatre was built to present Gilbert and Sullivan's performances

240 BCE — 1200 — 1500 — 1600 — 1700 — 1800 — 1900

Once they got popular, clergy were forbidden to perform in Miracle plays

- **Miracle plays** Miracle plays, depicting stories from the *Bible*, begin to be performed all around Europe by town guilds of actors. **1200**
- **Curtain call** Elizabeth I and other leaders ban all religious plays. This destroys the united form of theatre that was performed all over Europe, and forces each country to develop its own traditions. **1558**
- **Kabuki** The first Kabuki shows are held across Japan. It quickly becomes immensely popular and performances are even held at the Imperial Court. **1603**

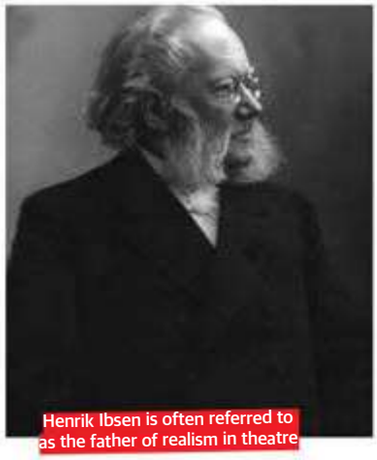
Kabuki performers were originally all female, but were banned in 1629 for being too erotic

- **Film canters forward** A series of stills showing a trotting horse are put together to form a moving picture. It is believed to be the first motion picture ever made. **1872**
- **Film studios** The first purpose-built film studios are created. One built by Georges Méliès features a glass roof and walls. **1897**

This painting by John Gilbert shows a variety of characters and scenes from Shakespeare's plays

All the world's a stage
ENGLAND 1564

When Shakespeare's plays began to gain popularity, he was attacked by playwright Robert Greene, who called him "an upstart Crow." This attitude, that an unknown boy from Stratford couldn't possibly have penned such exquisite literature, has continued in some circles even today. The influence of Shakespeare's plays on theatre is almost immeasurable. His work transformed the potential of character and plot, linking events in narrative to characters' choices.


Henrik Ibsen is often referred to as the father of realism in theatre

Theatre gets real
NORWAY 1828-1906

When Henrik Ibsen began writing plays he was not an immediate success. He struggled financially for years and it wasn't until the 1860s that his work began to make waves. Hailed as the father of realism in the theatre, his plays, such as *A Doll's House*, offer scathing critiques of modern life. His daring and shocking plays provoked controversy across Europe, attacking the very beliefs society was built on. Despite the scandalous nature of his plays, Ibsen is the most performed dramatist after Shakespeare.

NOT-SO-SILENT FILMS

WORLDWIDE 1894-1929

Silent films in their earliest form were little like the movies we watch today. They were one-reelers that lasted about ten to 12 minutes. Although they are described as silent, when shown in theatres a full-piece orchestra would accompany them. The quality of these films was actually quite high and misconceptions held by many today concerning their primitive nature is due to their deteriorated condition or because the films are played back at the wrong speed. The success of silent film marked the birth of popular film as a medium, and paved the way for a host of innovations.

Harold Lloyd became a hugely popular silent movie star with close to 200 comedy films

The famous Hollywood sign was originally put up in 1923 for a real estate development

The age of Hollywood

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 1920S

World War I had a devastating effect on the massively popular French and Italian film industries, but this gap was quickly filled by the American film industry. In the 1920s, Hollywood was producing 82 per cent of the global total of films – about 800 films a year. Its domination of the industry was helped by the star system, which elevated actors like Charlie Chaplain and Buster Keaton to stardom.

Ned Kelly steals the show
The first feature length film, *The Story Of The Kelly Gang*, is released. It has a 60-minute running time.
1906

The Story Of The Kelly Gang was an Australian film that told the story of outlaw Ned Kelly

Birth of controversy
Birth Of A Nation is released. Despite outrage concerning its racist portrayal of black men, it becomes the first film screened in the White House.
1915

The Ku Klux Klan used *Birth Of A Nation* as part of their recruitment process

Age of the talkies
The Jazz Singer is released. It is the first feature film that contains synchronised dialogue and singing.
1927

Bollywood's golden age
After India's independence, Hindi cinema flourishes and a host of critically acclaimed films are released.
1940

Horror gets horrific
Alfred Hitchcock unveils *Psycho* to the world. Its shocking violence and suspense will forever change the horror genre.
1960

Yoruba theatre
The jubilation of Nigerian independence prompts creativity in the arts, leading to the emergence of Yoruba theatre companies.
1960

Hitchcock earned the nickname 'the master of suspense'

In a theatre far far away...
The first *Star Wars* film is released. It begins a massive media franchise and influences a generation of films with special effects and science fiction elements.
1977

Theatre gets miserable
The musical version of Victor Hugo's book *Les Miserables* premieres in London. It will go on to become the longest running musical in history.
1985

A new dimension
James Cameron's *Avatar* becomes the highest grossing film of all time, increasing the popularity of 3D film in cinema.
2009

The first play performed at Shakespeare's Globe was *Henry V*

Shakespeare rises
A modern reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe theatre is built near to where the second reincarnation was closed in 1642.
1997

1920 1940 1960 1980 2000 2009

Ray received the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in India, in 1992, shortly before his death

A ray of hope

INDIA 1921-1992

Born in British India on 2 May 1921, Satyajit Ray was an Indian film director whose films had an immense effect not only on Indian cinema but on films the world over. Ray was a director with total control of his own work, with a hand in scripting, casting, directing, scoring, filming, editing and even creating publicity material. He flourished during Indian cinema's golden age in the 1950s and has been quoted as an influence on such directors as Steven Spielberg, Martin Scorsese and Danny Boyle.

Snow White And The Seven Dwarves was based on a fairytale by the Brothers Grimm

An animated beginning

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 1937

The act of depicting figures in motion through art can be seen as far back as Palaeolithic cave paintings, but it wasn't until the 20th century that the art form really became popular. Although film studios had created short cartoons before, it was Walt Disney who was the first to create a feature film entirely made up of hand-drawn animation. The success of *Snow White And The Seven Dwarves* ushered in a new age of animation using exciting new techniques that are still being developed today.

How to PUT ON A PLAY IN ANCIENT GREECE

IN ANCIENT ATHENS, PLAYWRITING WAS A FIERCE COMPETITION ATHENS, ANCIENT GREECE, 450 BCE

The earliest recorded evidence of theatre as we know it occurred in Athens in 532 BCE. A theatrical contest was won by Thespis, who is also hailed as the earliest known actor and origin for the term 'Thespian'. These theatre competitions were held as part of the festival of the City Dionysia. Originally a rural festival to honour the god Dionysus, the City Dionysia developed into a huge event that attracted visitors from all over Greece. Businesses closed and prisoners were released to join in the five-day celebration, of which the theatrical competition was the centrepiece. As democracy spread across Athens, playwrights began to question their society and acted as the voice of the people.

5 FAMOUS... ANCIENT PLAYWRIGHTS

SOPHOCLES
497-406 BCE ATHENS

One of three Greek tragedians whose plays have survived, Sophocles penned *Oedipus the King* and never came lower than second place in competitions.

TERENCE
195-159 BCE ROMAN REPUBLIC

Terence was a Roman comedic playwright of North African descent. Brought to Rome as a slave, his owner granted his freedom so he could write plays.

ARISTOPHANES
446-386 BCE ATHENS

Eleven of Aristophanes' comedic plays have survived completely and are almost the only examples of the Old Comedy genre.

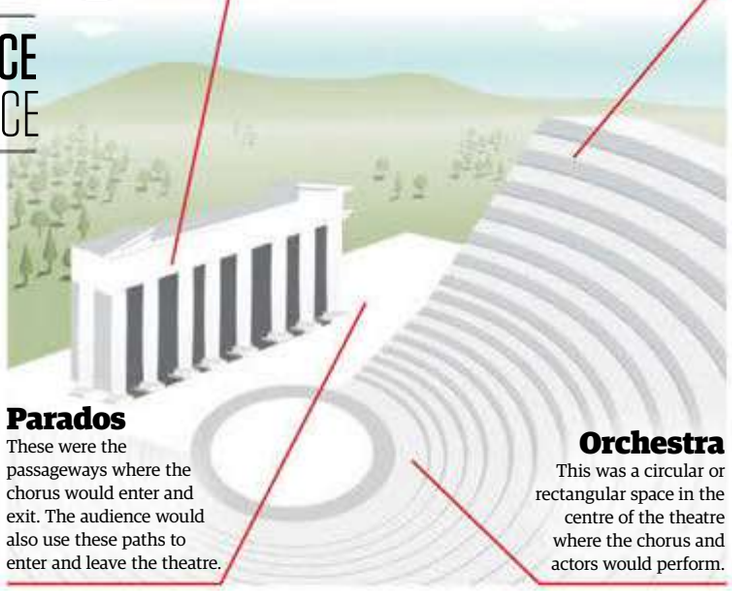
EURIPIDES
480-406 BCE ATHENS

Euripides was one of the most popular playwrights of ancient Athens; as a result, more plays of his exist than any other tragedian.

MENANDER
341-290 BCE ATHENS

Menander was a champion of the Lenaia festival, similar to the City Dionysia, and is seen as the father of Athenian New Comedy.

GREEK THEATRE



Skene
This building behind the stage was decorated to represent a scene in the play and allowed actors to enter and exit.

Theatron
The main area where spectators sat, initially the seats were simply cushions or boards, but soon theatres were made with marble seats.

Parados
These were the passageways where the chorus would enter and exit. The audience would also use these paths to enter and leave the theatre.

Orchestra
This was a circular or rectangular space in the centre of the theatre where the chorus and actors would perform.

01 Decide what kind of play to write

In Ancient Greece, tragedy and comedy are completely separate genres, so it's crucial that you, as a poet, make a decision as to which genre you will write. The City Dionysia features competitions between tragic and comic playwrights, and the ideal way for any budding poet to make their name is to win this competition, so pick your genre and get planning.

02 Get funding

Dionysia plays in Athens are publicly funded, which is great for you. However, this does mean that your plays need to be picked by an official known as the eponymous archon. Submit the proposal for your plays with all the other playwrights and wait to hear his decision. Only three playwrights will be picked; the other two will be your competition.

How not to... impress an audience

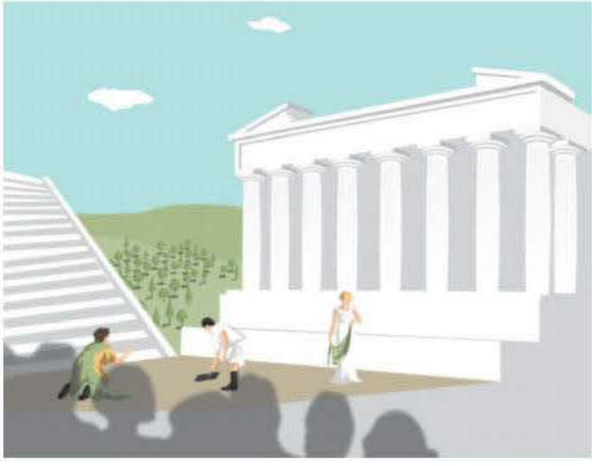
Russian composer Igor Stravinsky achieved recognition for his first ballets, *The Firebird* in 1910 and *Petrushka* in 1911, and in 1913 he premiered his third ballet *The Rite Of Spring*. The ballet was being shown in the prestigious Theatre des Champs-Elysees in Paris and attracted a huge crowd. Hopes were high, but almost as soon as it began things went downhill. Many believe it was not the music but the 'ugly earthbound lurching and stomping' of the dancers that offended the upper-class audience. There were reports of the crowd attacking each other as well as the orchestra. The disturbance grew into a near-riot and about 40 people were thrown out. Unsurprisingly, the ballet was panned by critics. After its short run the ballet was not performed again until the 1920s, with new choreography.

03 Get some actors

The eponymous archon is responsible for choosing your star actors, which will be decided by drawing random lots. However, it is the wealthiest citizens of Athens who will foot the bill for the rest of your production. Rich citizens, known as choregos, can win favour with the public by sponsoring your plays, paying for the chorus actors, scenery and even costumes.

04 Write your plays

It's time to sit down and write your plays. Remember, Ancient Greek plays feature music and singing, which you will need to write. Many of the most famous Greek tragedy writers were revolutionary in their ideas – such as Euripedes, who examined characters on a psychological level. Pushing traditional values can be risky, but it might see you go down in history.



05 Perform your play

After many rehearsals the day has arrived to present your plays. The setting for the competition is a huge theatre built into a hill. The competition can attract up to 14,000 people, beginning at dawn and continuing into the evening. Each playwright presents four plays – three tragedies and a satyr that mocks the mythological theme of the tragedies.

06 Collect your prize

After all competitors have performed, the judging takes place. The judges write their rankings on tablets, which are then placed in urns. The eponymous archon draws out five of the ten tablets at random and announces the winners. As there's only three competitors, the worst position is third place. The winner is crowned with a wreath of ivy and wins the adoration of the crowd.

4 INCREDIBLE THEATRES

THEATRE OF EPIDAURUS

4TH CENTURY BCE ANCIENT GREECE

Designed by Polykleitos the Younger, this huge theatre is acclaimed for exceptional acoustics that allows all 15,000 spectators to clearly hear actors.

GRAN TEATRO LA FENICE

1792 ITALY

This renowned Italian landmark was built three times after the first two incarnations were burned down.

MINACK THEATRE

1932 ENGLAND

This open-air theatre near Cornwall was originally constructed in a back garden for a local production. It now attracts 100,000 visitors a year.

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

1973 AUSTRALIA

One of the busiest performing arts centres in the world, the Sydney Opera House has multiple venues hosting more than 1,500 performances each year, attended by about 1.2 million people.

© Ed Crooks

Day in the life

A 1950S MOVIE STAR

RADIATING GLAMOUR AND GRACE WHILE WORKED TO EXHAUSTION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 1950S

The golden age of Hollywood was very much in motion at the dawn of the 1950s. The star system of the Hollywood studios was still in effect, which meant that some stars were still employees of film studios. However, a Supreme Court decision made it illegal for studios to own theatres. Power was being dragged away from the studios and actors wished to take advantage. As film struggled to hold its own against television, the scandals and glamour of the faces of the big screen were still a source of fascination to the public. While on the surface they appeared perfectly groomed at the forefront of fashion, in reality actors and actresses were fighting to stay afloat in a rapidly changing industry.

1 DRESS FOR SUCCESS

During the golden era of cinema, mass media was the main influence on fashion, and movie stars were constantly setting new trends. The styles of Audrey Hepburn, Grace Kelly and Elizabeth Taylor dragged fashion away from the conservative 1940s and even male stars like Marlon Brando and James Dean were making a splash – with teenage boys everywhere copying their white t-shirt, jeans and leather jacket look.

Women of the 1950s tried to emulate the glamour of stars like Marilyn Monroe

2 LAND THE PERFECT ROLE

The movies of the 1950s were a significant departure from the 1940s. As Cold War paranoia filtered into cinema, science fiction flicks that delivered cynical messages about political powers, such as *Invasion Of The Body Snatchers*, became popular. For actors it signalled a change from the 'cool' to fractured, emotionally vulnerable characters. Method acting, made popular by Marlon Brando, became prevalent among performers.

3 WORK WITHOUT BREAKS

Many popular stars of the era were in such high demand that they barely had any rest between one production and the next. To deal with their demanding schedules, young stars were pumped with amphetamines to keep them awake during filming, then sleeping pills at night. The pressure to produce winning performances also drove many stars to recreational drugs, especially LSD.

Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn on the set of the 1951 film *The African Queen*

Brando's performance in *On The Waterfront* won him an Oscar and transformed the world of acting

1 DEMAND A BIGGER SALARY

At the start of the 1950s, stars were still attached to studios, but this steadily began to decline through the decade. James Stewart broke tradition by becoming a freelance movie star and demanding to be paid half the profits made by his films. Many other stars followed his lead and went independent, insisting they were paid on a film-by-film basis. This was the beginning of huge independent star salaries that actors are paid today.

2 DATE A CO-STAR

As actors spent so much of their time on set, it is no surprise that secret love affairs between co-stars, directors and even agents were common. Esther Williams had a romantic liaison with co-star Victor Mature on the set of *Million Dollar Mermaid* due to problems with her marriage. Because of the relentless schedule and demanding work of starring in movies, it was very difficult for actors to maintain healthy relationships with anyone outside of the Hollywood bubble.

3 COVER UP A SCANDAL

Although Katharine Hepburn managed to hide a 26-year-long affair with co-star Spencer Tracy from the press, other stars were not so lucky. Ingrid Bergman's virginal image was destroyed when the press found out about her affair with director Roberto Rossellini in 1950. As actors were closely tied to studios, any scandalous headlines would impact negatively on the studio's reputation and could see the stars kicked out of their contracts.

4 AVOID THE PAPARAZZI

Although the term 'paparazzi' was not attached to them until the 1960s, in the 1950s the scandal sheet photographers were out in force, eager to grab the perfect snap of the decade's film stars in compromising or mundane situations. Even in these early days the paparazzi were the bane of actors' lives. Publicity could be positive, but more often than not photos would be used to support sensationalised stories that could damage an actor's career. The press hounded Marilyn Monroe so relentlessly that during a high-speed chase one of the paparazzo's cars hit a tree and he was killed.

5 APPEAR ON TV

In 1959, only 42 million Americans were attending the cinema each week, compared to double that number ten years previously. This was thanks to the growing number of American homes with television sets. Many directors, stars and technicians were forced to leave the film industry and work on television shows instead. There was also a growing trend for stars to appear on advertisements, as making money through film alone was proving difficult.

Popular sitcoms like *I Love Lucy* led to more people staying home to get their entertainment fix

How do we know this?

Although they can't be relied on for authenticity, tabloid newspapers from the era give a great insight into the pressure placed on movie stars in the 1950s, as well as the fascination people had with them. A lot of what we know about the lives of actors in this era comes from biographies written by the stars themselves. Lauren Bacall, Katharine Hepburn and Fred Astaire are just some of the stars who wrote revealing autobiographies of their lives during the golden era of film. For a more objective approach, *The Fifties: Transforming The Screen* offers an in-depth study of the changes cinema underwent in this dramatic decade, while also providing historical context of American culture as a whole.

© Rex Features

Hall of Fame

PIONEERS OF STAGE & FILM

From Shakespeare to Spielberg, these writers, directors and actors defined their craft

STEVEN SPIELBERG

USA 1946-PRESENT

Steven Allan Spielberg started his career by making home-made 'adventure' films on his father's 8mm film camera, and after winning an award in a short-film competition, he got an internship at Universal Studios. Quickly proving himself as an able film-maker, his big moment came in 1975 when his horror thriller *Jaws* was released in cinemas. Becoming the highest-grossing film in history at the time, *Jaws* ushered in the era of New Hollywood, with big budgets and even bigger incomes for massively marketed event films. Spielberg would spearhead this movement throughout the 1980s, 1990s and the early-21st century, setting the highest-grossing record himself twice again with *ET: The Extra-Terrestrial* in 1982 and *Jurassic Park* in 1993.

No Hollywood director has sold more tickets than Steven Spielberg

Recently, Abramovic has collaborated with pop star Lady Gaga

Abramovic fell unconscious during a show and the audience didn't realise for several minutes

MARINA ABRAMOVIC

SERBIA 1946-PRESENT

Born in tumultuous Serbia, then a part of Yugoslavia, Abramovic embarked on a mostly solo-performance career in the 1970s onward, in which she subverted the traditions of stage performance, producing a series of provocative, experimental - often self-endangering - works that explored the nature of sexuality, pain and even social behaviour. This was often reflected in the actions of her audience members, who would frequently become a part of her non-traditional performances. Her fame was only magnified by the advent of social media, and she is still very active in exploring humanity through performance today.

Unfortunately, only about 200 of Méliès' 500 films have survived to the present day

Georges Méliès

FRANCE 1861-1938

Often referred to as the world's first 'cinemagician', Méliès took the nascent film technology that had been recently developed by the Lumiére brothers and others and started experimenting with it in creative ways. By trickeries of cinematography, editing and even practical effects, Méliès' films, of which he made hundreds from 1896 to 1913, introduced an element of narrative, adventure and fantasy to cinema, forming a fascination with the spectacular still felt in films worldwide today.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

ENGLAND 1564-1616

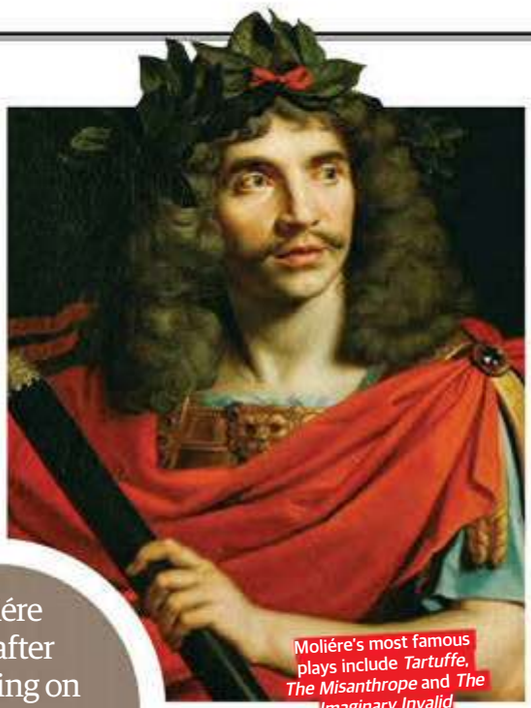
Hailed as not only one of the most influential playwrights of all time but also counted among the greatest writers of the English language, Shakespeare wrote almost 40 plays including *Hamlet, Romeo And Juliet, Richard III* and *Macbeth,* along with a large collection of poems and sonnets. Equally adept at tragedies, histories and comedies, his work is not only still produced with unerring regularity across the globe but also has an immense influence on a great number of playwrights, performers, poets and film-makers to this day.

Shakespeare coined many words now found in any standard English dictionary

SOPHOCLES

ANCIENT GREECE CA 497 BCE -CA 406 BCE

It's hard to find any one person who has had a greater influence on theatre and playwriting throughout the ages than the Ancient Greek pioneer Sophocles. The playwright earned fame by beating the then-guiding light of Greek theatre, Aeschylus, in the Dionysia theatre competition in 468 BCE. By altering the rules of playwriting, for example by adding a third character to the rigid form of two and a chorus, he expanded the possibilities of storytelling on stage. Although only a fraction of his plays survive, those that do are still popular production material of directors.



Moliére's most famous plays include *Tartuffe*, *The Misanthrope* and *The Imaginary Invalid*

MOLIÉRE

FRANCE 1622-1673

If Shakespeare was the master of the English language and theatre, Moliére was undoubtedly the master of the French. Born into an upper-class family, he got involved with theatre from a young age and soon went on to write his own plays. Often receiving royal commission for work, he gained fame for his comedies, which are still popular material for the world's stages today.

However, despite – or perhaps because of – his background, he began criticising aristocracy and religion through his subversive use of humour, drawing ire from moralists and condemnation from the Catholic church. Some of his plays were considered so insidious that the church banned them, which only went to further his fame in the long run, of course.

Moliére died after collapsing on stage performing in the last play he had written

Dharmendra was Bollywood's biggest romantic star in the 1960s before turning to action films

Dharmendra

INDIA 1935-PRESENT

In Bollywood, the most prolific film industry in the world, Dharam Singh Deol – known as Dharmendra – is one of Indian cinema's biggest-ever stars. Nicknamed 'Action King' for his action-film roles, Dharmendra was perhaps the world's single most popular film star, in terms of sheer audience numbers, from 1960 to the late-1990s. He has appeared in almost 100 hit films in his career.

Ford was a master carpenter before turning his hand to acting and lives in a ranch house that he built

"All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players"

***As You Like It*, William Shakespeare**

Sarah Kane

UNITED KINGDOM 1971-1999

She only published five plays during her lifetime, was never commissioned by royals and her work has not been adapted into major films, but Sarah Kane has had more effect on contemporary theatre than many other 20th-century playwrights. Creating a stir when her first play, *Blasted*, was shown in 1995, she was either hailed as a visionary or attacked for her blunt and explicit writing by the British media. She was a big part of the so-called 'in-yer-face' theatre, which moved away from naturalistic theatre in favour of a more provocative, socially and politically critical and gritty depiction of the world through drama. Her influence is still spreading through Western theatre today.

HARRISON FORD

USA 1942-PRESENT

No one's face has been seen on cinema screens by more people in the Western world than Harrison Ford's. Getting his first notable role at the age of 31 in 1973's *American Graffiti*, few signs pointed to Ford becoming the star he is today. However, after playing Han Solo in the *Star Wars* films and Professor Jones in the *Indiana Jones* films, by 1988 he had become the most popular film actor of all time. Yet to relent the title, Ford has used his celebrity status to fight for environmental and preservation causes and issues.

As Ford will appear in the upcoming *Star Wars* sequel, he will probably remain the most popular film actor for a long time

© Alamy Corbis

THE Anatomy of BUNRAKU PUPPETRY

EXPERT SKILLS CREATING CULTURAL MASTERPIECES

JAPAN, 17TH CENTURY – MODERN DAY

BLACK ROBES

TO CREATE THE ILLUSION OF NOTHINGNESS

Unlike operators of string puppets, Bunraku puppeteers appear on stage. As black traditionally signifies nothingness, the operators often dress in black robes and head coverings to indicate there is 'nothing' there. However, as the expert skills of some operators attracted attention, a tradition of the head puppeteer wearing a kimono with his family crest was created. This allows the audience to see who the master is.

FACE

THE SOUL OF THE CHARACTER

The heads of the puppets, known as kashira, help define the character and are divided into strict categories of gender, class and personality. While specific characters occasionally require a certain head, others can be used for multiple performances by simply repainting them. Some heads contain complex mechanisms that transform the face into a demon.

WIG

THE 'DO THAT DEFINES THE CHARACTER

The construction of the hair of the puppet is also a skilled craft. The wigs tend to be made from human hair attached to copper plates, and yak's tail is sometimes also used to add volume. There are fundamental styles for each character type, and wig masters must build upon these set styles to create an appropriate finished piece.

EXPERT CRAFTSMANSHIP

THE TRUE GENIUS OF THE PUPPET LIES BENEATH THE SURFACE

The mechanism of the puppets is rather simple, but very effective. The hollow wood heads are placed on a grip sick, while the arms and legs are attached to a rounded shoulder board with strings. However, female puppets as a rule do not have any legs, and instead the puppeteer will use their fists in the hem of the robe to create the illusion of feet.

WELL-HONED SKILLS

PUPPETRY ISN'T CHILD'S PLAY

Extreme dedication and commitment is required from those who wish to operate these sophisticated puppets. Those in the first stages of training will operate the feet of the puppet, then will move on to the left hand. Finally, the master puppeteer will operate the right hand and head. It used to be said "ten years for the feet, ten years for the left," indicating the lengthy training required to become a Bunraku master.

COSTUME

EVERY DETAIL PAINSTAKINGLY CHOSEN

Each puppet is dressed in an under robe, inner kimono, outer robe, collar and an obi belt. The robes are stuffed with cotton to give a more natural look to the puppet's body. Costume masters are in charge of picking out the perfect selection of clothes for the character, which are then sent to the puppeteers to dress the doll in a tradition known as koshirae - 'the dressing of the doll'.

THREE OPERATORS

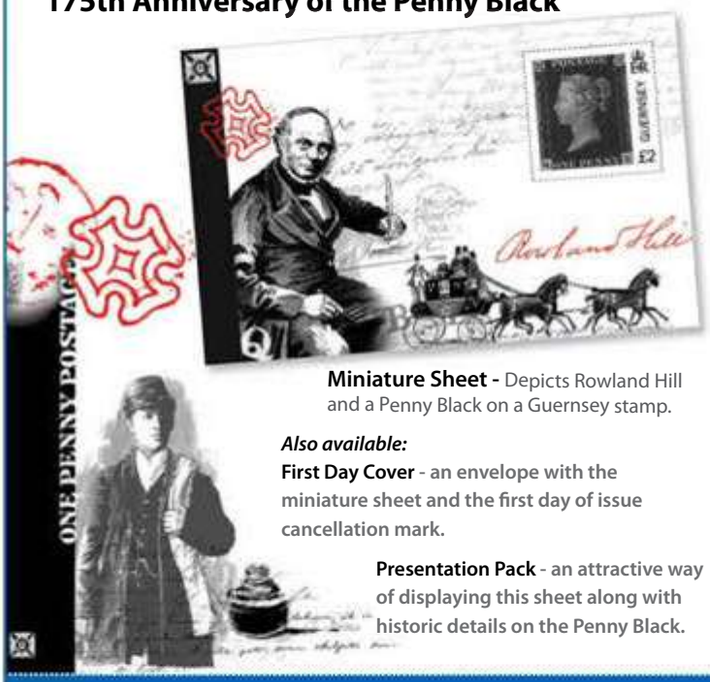
A REAL JOINT EFFORT

Bunraku puppets are unique as they require three puppeteers to operate each doll. Total harmony is required from all three of the operators to ensure the puppet's movements look natural and bring the character to life. The head puppeteer will wear elevated clogs to compensate for the height of the doll, which can be as tall as 150 centimetres (5 feet).

© Kevin McGivern

COMMEMORATIVE GUERNSEY STAMPS

175th Anniversary of the Penny Black



Miniature Sheet - Depicts Rowland Hill and a Penny Black on a Guernsey stamp.

Also available:

First Day Cover - an envelope with the miniature sheet and the first day of issue cancellation mark.

Presentation Pack - an attractive way of displaying this sheet along with historic details on the Penny Black.

The iconic Penny Black stamp

The first mention of what became the world's first adhesive postage stamp came from Rowland Hill when answering questions in a parliamentary enquiry into the Post Office service in February 1837.

> *"...A bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash."*

At the time postage was charged by the sheet and the distance travelled therefore too expensive for most people to use. Hill proposed the idea of wrapping a letter in an additional piece of paper - now known as the envelope and attaching a 'label' - now known as a stamp.

From this one small stamp developed a new system of processing and delivering mail. The new uniform prices, transportation and postal systems meant that costs became more affordable and almost everyone could afford to write a letter.

The miniature sheet (above left) celebrates this historic event and is a true memento of this iconic stamp.

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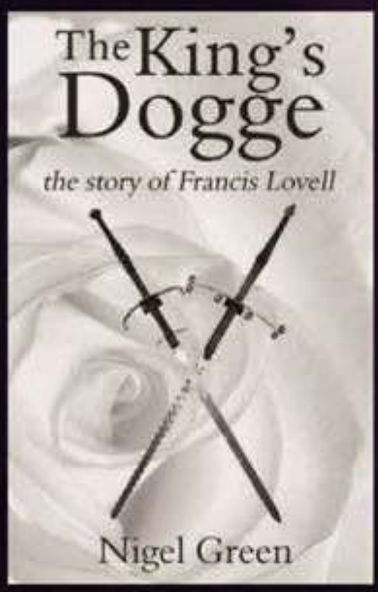

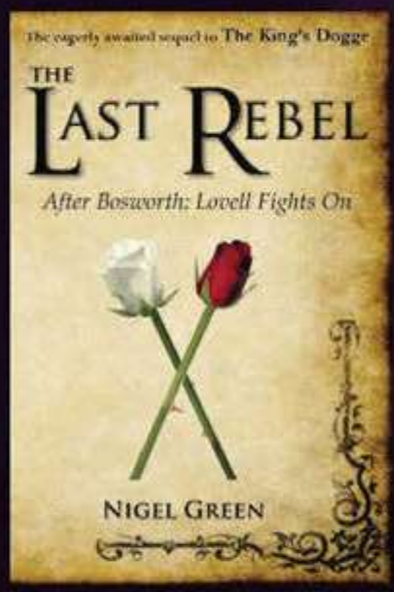

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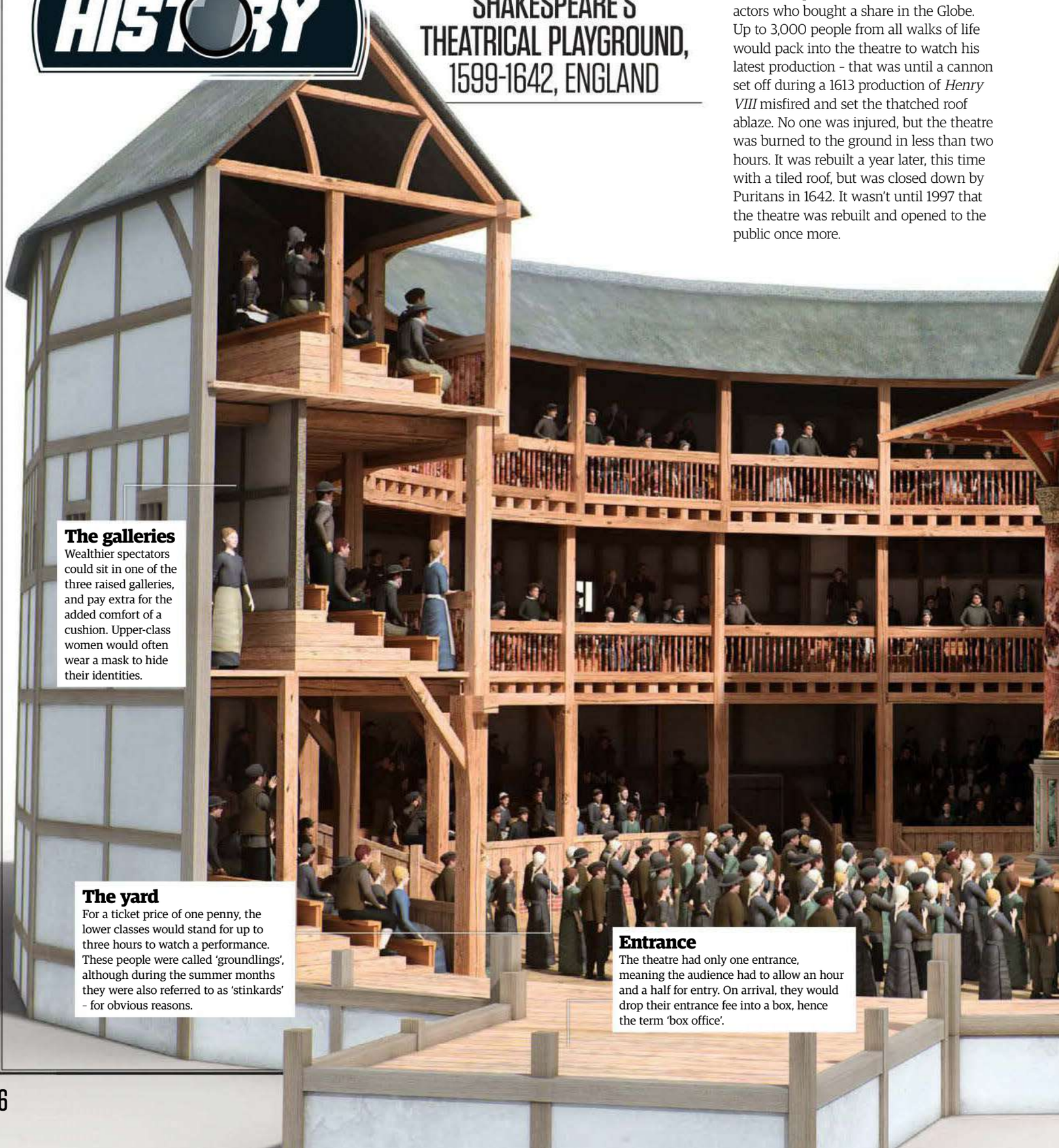
INSIDE HISTORY

THE GLOBE

SHAKESPEARE'S THEATRICAL PLAYGROUND, 1599-1642, ENGLAND

One of the first purpose-built theatres in London, this open-air building is best known for its links with the most famous playwright in history, William Shakespeare. Its construction was funded by his playing company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men, and Shakespeare himself was one of four actors who bought a share in the Globe. Up to 3,000 people from all walks of life would pack into the theatre to watch his latest production – that was until a cannon set off during a 1613 production of *Henry VIII* misfired and set the thatched roof ablaze. No one was injured, but the theatre was burned to the ground in less than two hours. It was rebuilt a year later, this time with a tiled roof, but was closed down by Puritans in 1642. It wasn't until 1997 that the theatre was rebuilt and opened to the public once more.



The galleries
Wealthier spectators could sit in one of the three raised galleries, and pay extra for the added comfort of a cushion. Upper-class women would often wear a mask to hide their identities.

The yard
For a ticket price of one penny, the lower classes would stand for up to three hours to watch a performance. These people were called 'groundlings', although during the summer months they were also referred to as 'stinkards' – for obvious reasons.

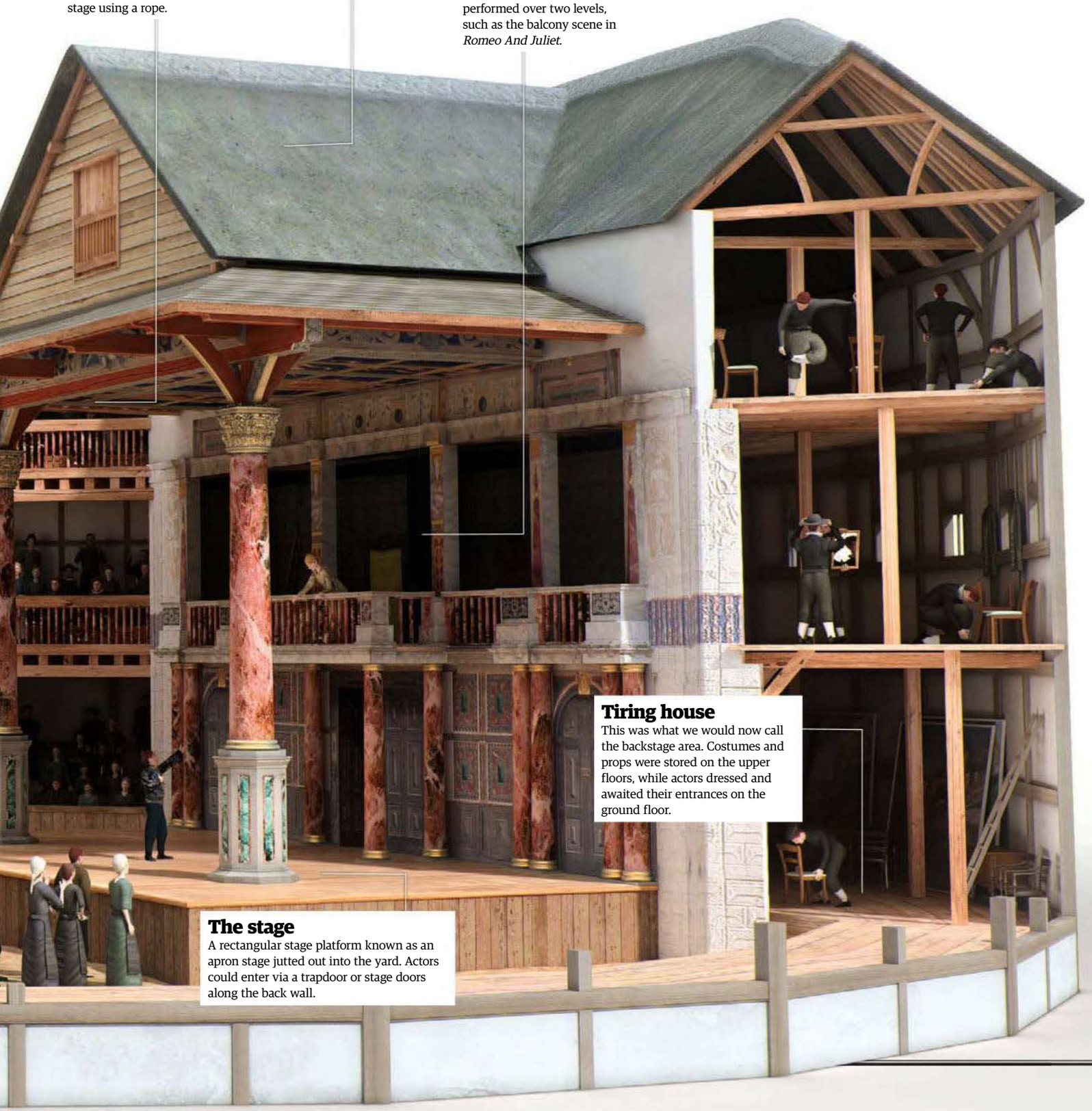
Entrance
The theatre had only one entrance, meaning the audience had to allow an hour and a half for entry. On arrival, they would drop their entrance fee into a box, hence the term 'box office'.

> Up to 3,000 people from all walks of life would pack into the theatre

The heavens
The ceiling under the stage roof was known as the 'heavens', and would have been painted to look like a sky. A trap door in the ceiling allowed actors to drop down onto the stage using a rope.

Roof
The original Globe had a thatched roof that covered the gallery areas and stage, protecting the actors and wealthier spectators from the elements. After a fire destroyed the theatre, it was rebuilt with a less flammable tiled roof.

Balcony
This was where the musicians performed. It could also be used for scenes performed over two levels, such as the balcony scene in *Romeo And Juliet*.



Tiring house
This was what we would now call the backstage area. Costumes and props were stored on the upper floors, while actors dressed and awaited their entrances on the ground floor.

The stage
A rectangular stage platform known as an apron stage jutted out into the yard. Actors could enter via a trapdoor or stage doors along the back wall.

© Sol 90 Images

Top 5 facts OSCAR WILDE

THE VICTORIAN PLAYWRIGHT AND SOCIALITE PLAGUED BY CONTROVERSY

OSCAR WILDE
Nationality: Irish
Born: 16 October 1854
Died: 30 November 1900

Brief Bio

Wilde became popular in the early 1890s in London as an acclaimed playwright, during which time he wrote poems and the renowned novel *The Picture Of Dorian Gray*. The talented playwright was later arrested and imprisoned for 'gross indecency' and died destitute aged just 46. His plays have stood the test of time and continue to be produced today.

01 WILDE WAS A REBELLIOUS STUDENT

Although Wilde was a very talented student – he was awarded a scholarship to Trinity College, Dublin, and then Magdalen College, Oxford University – he grew steadily more rebellious. In one academic year he turned up three weeks late to the start of term.

02 He was one of the first 'celebrities'

Wilde was one of the first people who, particularly during his early days in London, was famous for being famous. He entered into high society and caused a stir with his dress and unique manner. He seemed to revel in any attention that came his way and became a master of self-publicity.

03 An author stole the love of his life

Florence Balcombe, a stunning socialite, attracted the eye of a young Wilde and they soon became sweethearts. Many believed they were to marry, but Balcombe instead married Bram Stoker, the author of *Dracula*. Wilde was crushed, remembering "the two sweet years" they spent together.

04 *Dorian Gray* was heavily edited

The Picture Of Dorian Gray was intended to be very different to the published version. Without Wilde's knowledge, 500 words were deleted before it was published in a magazine. After the edition received criticism, Wilde was forced to remove further homoerotic themes. The unedited version was finally published in 2011.

05 His parents were more remarkable

Although it is Wilde who is remembered today, his parents were equally, if not more, impressive than he was. His father, Sir William Robert Wilde, was a doctor whose remarkable medical work earned him a knighthood. His mother, Jane, was a prominent poet and Irish nationalist who mastered 12 languages.

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HOW ELIZABETH'S PIRATES STOLE THE

TUDOR EMPIRE

In the age of exploration, the fate of nations and the fortunes of men were created, sunk and stolen on the open seas

Written by **Frances White**

In the years before Elizabeth ascended the throne, England was plagued by internal conflicts. Her father Henry VIII's split from the church had caused England to fall out of favour with Rome, and then the early death of his heir Edward VI prompted a succession crisis. The country had switched from Protestant to Catholic with the rise of Mary I, and those who dared to challenge her were burned in the streets without mercy. While other countries were prospering, England was struggling to maintain order within its own borders. What the country needed was a stable, temperate ruler, one whose reign would allow the nation to flourish; that is what it found in Elizabeth.

A Protestant, but without the extreme beliefs of her father, Elizabeth was tolerant, moderate and wise enough to listen to her counsellors. Finally, with the country somewhat stable, its population was able to look outwards. They discovered that the world had very much moved on without them. Spanish, Italian and Portuguese explorers ruled the waves. Using their sophisticated navigation tools, they had set up powerful and profitable trading roots, and if it didn't act soon, England would find itself isolated and vulnerable.

Armed with new navigation tools, English sailors were finally bold enough to sail beyond the sight of land and into the open sea. The spirit of exploration gripped the nation, which was eager to best the competition, spread Christianity and, most importantly, claim riches. Figures such as Walter Raleigh and Francis Drake, a virtual unknown, became household names after completing valiant voyages for the English crown. As riches began to pour in, more and more ambitious seamen took to the waves eager for a taste of glory, wealth and adventure. The risks were high, but the profits, if successful, were even greater.

It became obvious that true wealth lay in trade and an abundance of chartered companies began to pop up around the country. Making perilous journeys to plant their flags in far-off exotic lands, traders brought a stream of valuable eastern spices, pepper, nutmeg, wine, precious stones, dyes and even slaves pouring into England.

It was an era of exploration, an era of change; a time when a lowly sailor with an adventurous spirit could make his fortune if he was daring enough to take it. There was a new world to explore, and it seemed like the entire world order could change as quickly as the wind.

The pirate knight

Writer, courtier, spy, Walter Raleigh used his favour with the queen to wipe out his Spanish rivals

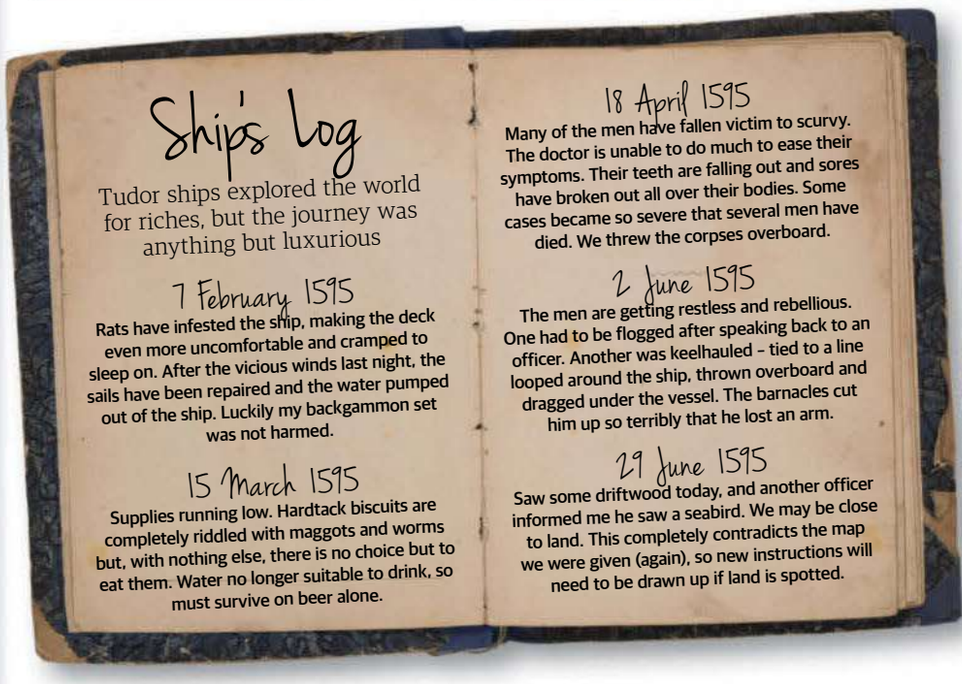
The life story of Sir Walter Raleigh is one of glittering highs and devastating lows. It perfectly encapsulates how, in the age of exploration, one's fate could be changed, for better or worse, in an instant.

Born into moderate influence, Raleigh was the youngest son of a highly Protestant family. Educated at Oxford University, it seemed he was set for an academic life, but when the French religious civil wars broke out, he left the country to serve with the Huguenots against King Charles IX of France. However, it was his participation in the Desmond Rebellions in Ireland that would forever alter his life.

When uprisings broke out in Munster, Raleigh fought in the queen's army to suppress the rebels. His ruthlessness in punishing the rebels at the Siege of Smerwick in 1580 and his subsequent seizure of lands saw him become a powerful landowner and, most importantly, it caught the attention of the queen. Oozing natural charm and wit, Raleigh became a frequent visitor to the Royal Court and he soon became a firm favourite of Elizabeth. She bestowed her beloved courtier with large estates and even a knighthood. Her deep trust in Raleigh was demonstrated in 1587, when she made him Captain of the Queen's Guard.

It is no surprise then that when Raleigh suggested colonising America, it was supported whole heartedly by the queen, who granted him trade privileges to do just that. From 1584 to 1589, Raleigh led several voyages to the New World; he explored from North Carolina to Florida and bestowed it with the name 'Virginia' in honour of the virgin queen. His attempts to establish

Raleigh and his men attacking a Spanish fort



Ship's Log

Tudor ships explored the world for riches, but the journey was anything but luxurious

7 February 1595

Rats have infested the ship, making the deck even more uncomfortable and cramped to sleep on. After the vicious winds last night, the sails have been repaired and the water pumped out of the ship. Luckily my backgammon set was not harmed.

15 March 1595

Supplies running low. Hardtack biscuits are completely riddled with maggots and worms but, with nothing else, there is no choice but to eat them. Water no longer suitable to drink, so must survive on beer alone.

18 April 1595

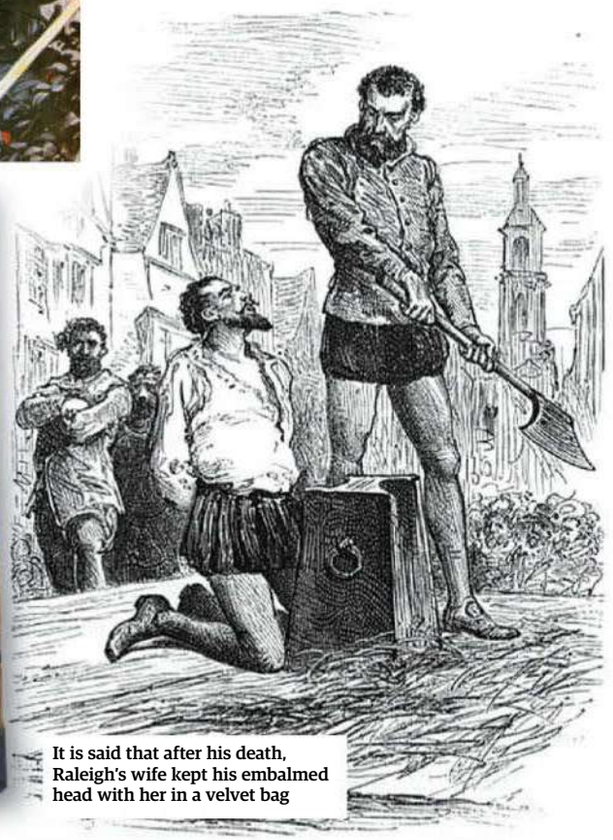
Many of the men have fallen victim to scurvy. The doctor is unable to do much to ease their symptoms. Their teeth are falling out and sores have broken out all over their bodies. Some cases became so severe that several men have died. We threw the corpses overboard.

2 June 1595

The men are getting restless and rebellious. One had to be flogged after speaking back to an officer. Another was keelhauled – tied to a line looped around the ship, thrown overboard and dragged under the vessel. The barnacles cut him up so terribly that he lost an arm.

29 June 1595

Saw some driftwood today, and another officer informed me he saw a seabird. We may be close to land. This completely contradicts the map we were given (again), so new instructions will need to be drawn up if land is spotted.



It is said that after his death, Raleigh's wife kept his embalmed head with her in a velvet bag

English ships and the Spanish Armada in August 1588

colonies, however, ended in failure. His settlement at Roanoke Island especially was a disaster, as the entire colony mysteriously disappeared, their fate unknown to this day.

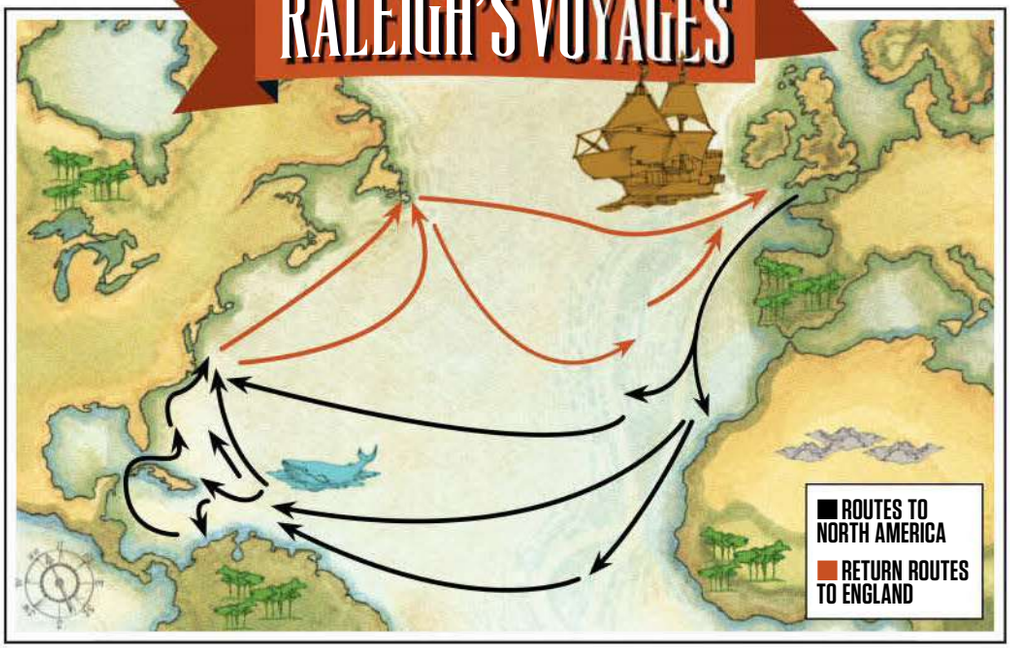
The Roanoke colony was not the only one to experience a disastrous end – Raleigh's relationship with the queen was destroyed when she discovered his secret marriage to one of her own ladies in waiting. Not only was she 11 years younger than him, but she was also pregnant. Furious that he had failed to obtain her permission, and likely a little jealous, Elizabeth had Raleigh imprisoned and his wife cast out of court.

Upon his release, Raleigh was eager to reclaim favour with the monarch so led a mission to search for the legendary city of gold – El Dorado. Although his accounts would claim otherwise, he did not find the city of legend, but instead explored modern-day Guyana and Venezuela. His attack on the powerful Spanish Port of Cadiz and attempts to destroy the newly formed Spanish Armada helped to gradually win back favour with Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth died and James I came to the throne in 1603, Raleigh must have realised his time was up. His ruthless spirit and charm had won him a soft spot in the English queen's heart, but the Scottish king took an immediate dislike to him. Raleigh was arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London less than a year after James's ascension. He was found guilty of treason, but was spared from his death sentence and committed to life imprisonment. In 1616 he was released by the money-hungry king to, yet again, search for the fabled city of gold, which his own accounts had helped make into a legend.

During the expedition, he disobeyed James's orders and attacked a Spanish outpost. Spain was furious, and in order to appease them, James had no choice but to punish the rebellious adventurer. Raleigh was re-arrested and his sentence was finally carried out. Bold and cunning to the end, Raleigh reportedly said to his executioner: "This is sharp medicine, but it is a cure for all diseases. What dost thou fear? Strike, man, strike."

RALEIGH'S VOYAGES



What Was On Board?

A ship of 200 men setting sail for a week would be loaded with...

A shaky start

1 On 15 November 1577, Drake sets off from Plymouth, but his voyage is immediately halted by bad weather. They are forced to return to Plymouth to repair their already battered ships. On 13 December, he sets sail again on the Pelican. He is accompanied by four other ships manned by 164 men, and he soon adds a sixth ship to his fleet.

A grim landing

2 After being forced to sink two ships, Drake lands on the bay of San Julian, where he burns another rotting ship. There, Drake tries Thomas Doughty, who is accused of treachery and incitement to mutiny. He is sentenced to death and executed alongside the decaying skeletons swinging in the Spanish gibbets.

The lone flagship

3 With just three ships remaining, Drake reaches the Pacific Ocean. However, sudden violent storms destroy one and force another to return home. The flagship Pelican is pushed south and they discover an island, which Drake names Elizabeth Island. He then changes the name of his lone ship to the Golden Hind.

The Mystery Landing

4 Drake sails north and lands on the coast of California on 1 June 1579. While there he befriends the natives and dubs the land Nova Albion, or 'New Britain'. The location of this port remains a mystery to this day, as all maps were altered to keep it a secret from the Spanish. The officially recognised location is now Drakes Bay, California.

For many, Sir Francis Drake is a physical embodiment of the glories of Tudor England. But Drake himself was an entirely untypical hero. His birth was viewed so unremarkable that no one is sure exactly when it was. He came from a very ordinary family; he was the eldest of 12 sons, and his father was a farmer. When the Catholic Mary began to persecute Protestants, the family fled from Devonshire to Kent, where his father became a preacher. It seemed fate itself wished to place Drake on a ship, as he was apprenticed to their neighbour, and when the old, childless sailor died, he left his ship to his favourite pupil.

By the 1560s, the young Drake was making frequent trips to Africa. There, he would capture slaves and sell them in New Spain. This was against Spanish law and in 1568 his fleet was trapped by Spaniards in the Mexican port of San Juan de Ulua. Although Drake managed to escape, many of his men were killed. This incident instilled a deep hatred in Drake towards the Spanish crown that would last throughout his entire life.

In 1572 he received a privateer's commission from Elizabeth and set his sights on plundering any Spanish ship that crossed his path. He targeted wealthy Spanish-owned port towns and settlements, attacking them and claiming as much gold and silver as he could load on to his ships. It

Dragon of the seas

The Spanish had circumnavigated the globe decades before, but English explorer Francis Drake threatened to destroy their success

The Hind lives on

5 Drake reaches a group of islands in the southwest Pacific known as the Moluccas. After a close shave in which the Golden Hind is almost lost after being caught on a reef, Drake befriends the sultan king of the islands.

TUDOR NAVIGATION

Although Tudor sailors liked to paint themselves as masters of the seas, their navigation tools were rather primitive and a lot of guesswork was involved. Maps did exist, but they were often incorrect, as much land was undiscovered. Compasses were used for direction and an instrument called a nocturnal was used to determine the alignment of the stars, which helped to calculate tides. The term 'knots' came from a Tudor method to calculate the speed of a ship – a piece of wood attached to a rope with knots in it was cast out and the knots counted as they passed through a sailor's fingers. Another sailor used a sandglass to determine how many knots were travelled in a period of time.

The valiant return

6 On 26 September 1580, the Golden Hind finally returns to Plymouth with Drake and the 59 remaining crewmembers onboard. The queen receives half of the treasures and spices loaded onto the ship. In return, Elizabeth gives Drake a jewel with her miniature portrait, now known as the 'Drake Jewel'.

was Drake who, when discovering that he had too much gold to carry, decided to bury it and reclaim it later. This was not the only comparison made between Drake and pirates. Although in England his success had seen him become a wealthy and respected explorer, this was not the case in Spain. To the Spaniards whose ships he had plundered, Drake became a bloodthirsty figure to be feared; they even gave him the terrifying nickname 'El Draque' – the Dragon.

Dragon or not, the daring and bountiful voyages of the English adventurer had impressed Queen Elizabeth I. He perfectly epitomised the kind of pioneering English spirit that she felt her country needed to ensure it became a major world power. In 1577, she sent Drake on an expedition against the Spanish along the Pacific coast of South America. He raided the Spanish settlements in his usual ruthless style and, after plundering Spanish ships along the coasts of Chile and Peru, he landed in California and claimed it for his queen. His journey continued through the Indian Ocean and when he finally returned to England on 26 September 1580, he became the first Englishman to circumnavigate the world. This delighted the queen, but what pleased her even more were the pretty jewels he bestowed her with. In a move that insulted the king of Spain, she dined onboard the explorer's ship, bestowed him with a jewel of her own and gave him a knighthood.

Drake's formidable success at the expense of Spain did not end there. In 1588 he was made vice admiral of the Navy, and when 130 Spanish Armada ships entered the English Channel, he fought them back with relish. Now, he wasn't only a wealthy explorer and royal favourite, he was also a war hero. However, in 1596 his luck finally ran out. The queen requested him to engage his old enemy Spain one last time and in a mission to capture the Spanish treasure in Panama, Drake contracted dysentery and died. His body was placed in a lead coffin and cast out to sea. His enduring legacy remains, and to this day divers continue to search for the coffin of the man who led Elizabethan England to glory.

The Muscovy Company's demands to close Russian trade to other European powers were met with anger by Ivan IV

Trade invoice

Slaves – Africa

Oriental spices: cinnamon, cloves, peppers – China and India

Currants: dried wine grapes – Eastern Mediterranean

Wine – Eastern Mediterranean

Cotton – Eastern Mediterranean

Silk – Eastern Mediterranean

Cordage – Russia

Hemp – Russia

Furs – Russia

Carpets – Turkey

Silk – Persia

Fruit – Mediterranean

Sugar – North Africa

Treasures of the empire

A world full of riches awaited to make England a wealthy and powerful nation once again

When it came to trade, England had some catching up to do. For a long time, Italian spice and dye traders dominated the seas, but the Italian monopoly that had existed on trade was finally broken by Spain and Portugal. In their efforts to loosen the Italian hold on trade, these traders discovered sea routes to the Indies and the hugely valuable spices that lay beyond. England looked on greedily as Spain grew wealthier and wealthier and became determined to share in the riches that were on offer in the New World. If England failed to get a foothold in the exploration of the New World, its European rivals would leave it behind and the nation would be left vulnerable. Trade didn't just mean riches anymore – it meant survival.

After an English spy gained a copy of *Breve Compendio De La Sphera*, a secret Spanish textbook that held the secrets to success at sea, craftsmen began designing new instruments and English explorers were finally ready to take to the waves. Queen Elizabeth supported the voyages of these intrepid explorers and expressed that she would not disapprove if they were to take advantage of richly laden Spanish ships while doing so. Soon, English adventurers gained a reputation for piracy, although the raids were conducted not by pirates but by 'privateers'. Spanish ships in the Caribbean trembled in terror upon the sight of an English galleon on the horizon. A new world was dawning, and using their cunning, daring and ruthlessness, English traders would come to rule it.

THE EAST INDIA COMPANY

The tiny English company that came to control half of all the world's trade

When Queen Elizabeth granted a Royal Charter to the traders that would become the East India Trading Company, it's doubtful she could foresee the impact it would have upon the world. The 15-year charter permitted the fledgling company a monopoly on trade with countries east of the Cape of Good Hope and west of the Straits of Magellan, but they were motivated by one thing – spices. But the Dutch East India Company had the monopoly and the small English company had to work from the bottom up, slowly gaining income and respect. Eventually the company's trade in spices, cotton and silk saw profits pour in. Just 47 years after its creation, the little business morphed into a giant. For many, the pioneering nature of the company was symbolic of the spirit of exploration, tearing down the barriers of the world. But as the company became more powerful, its ambitions grew in kind. The initial focus on trade morphed into dangerous colonial aspirations that would lead to the company's eventual downfall.

Elizabethan privateer James Lancaster commanded the first East India Co. voyage

A 1593 map of Muscovy

EXPANDING EAST

The East India Company weren't the only English traders to rule the seas

Although the East India Trading Company was a major player in the arena of English trade, many other companies were making waves worldwide. The first major chartered joint stock company was the Muscovy Company, focusing on trade between England and Muscovy, modern-day Russia. Trading with this mysterious state in the frozen tundra involved perilous journeys that left one crew frozen, but when Richard Chancellor finally made it to Moscow he found a market eager to trade. English wool was exchanged for Russian fur and an array of valuable goods. The Muscovy Company even led to a marriage proposal from Ivan the Terrible to Elizabeth.

Another major English chartered company was the Levant, or Turkey, Company, drawn to the Ottoman empire by the lure of exotic spices. The Levant Company amassed a small fortune trading in silk and valuable currants. What set the Levant Company apart was that the leaders never appeared to have colonial ambitions, instead working closely with the sultan. This allowed for a relationship of mutual benefit.

Forgotten Tudor Explorers

The men whose voyages carved the world for England

Humphrey Gilbert

1539-1583

Half brother of Sir Walter Raleigh, Gilbert's voyages established St John's Newfoundland, the most eastern province of Canada, in 1583. An early pioneer of the English colonial empire in North America, Gilbert initially sailed to find a sea route through North America to Asia.

John Hawkins

1532-1595

Cousin of Francis Drake, Hawkins was not only chief architect of the Navy but also conducted several voyages to West Africa and South America. Hawkins was a trade pioneer and made a huge profit from the slave trade.

Richard Grenville

1542-1591

An English war hero, Grenville was a major part of early attempts to settle in the New World. He attempted to set up colonies in Roanoke Island and his daring death aboard his ship Revenge is immortalised in Tennyson's poem *The Revenge*.

Martin Frobisher

1535/1539-1594

Frobisher was determined to find a north-west passage as a trade route to India and China, and made three voyages in an effort to do so. The privateer collected what he believed was 1,550 tons of gold, but actually turned out to be worthless iron pyrite.

Richard Hawkins

1562-1622

Son of John Hawkins, he set sail to prey on the possessions of the Spanish crown in South America. Although his plundering of Spanish towns strongly suggest otherwise, he maintained that the purpose of the expedition was geographical discovery.

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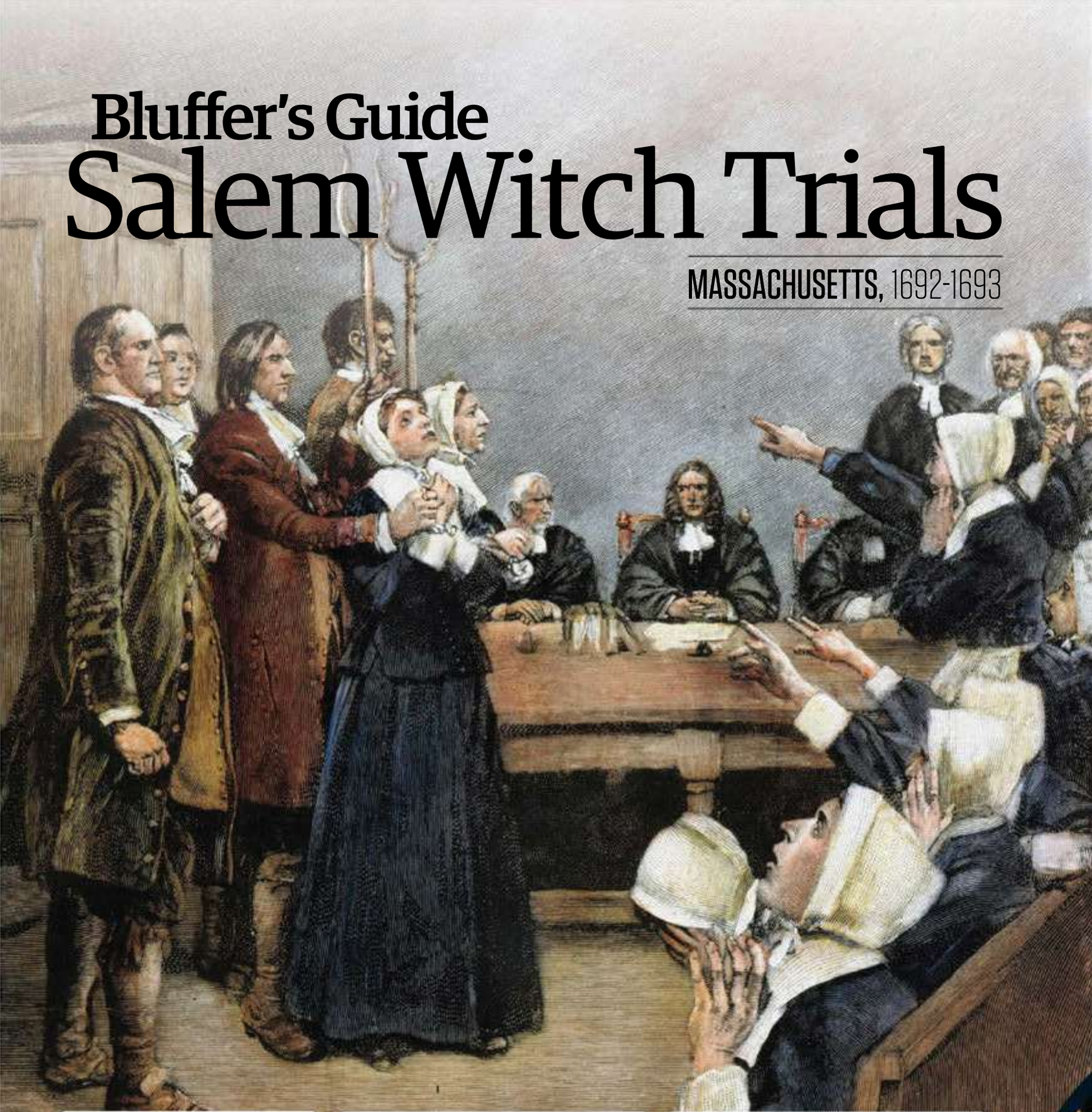
Bluffer's Guide
Salem Witch Trials

MASSACHUSETTS, 1692-1693



What was it?

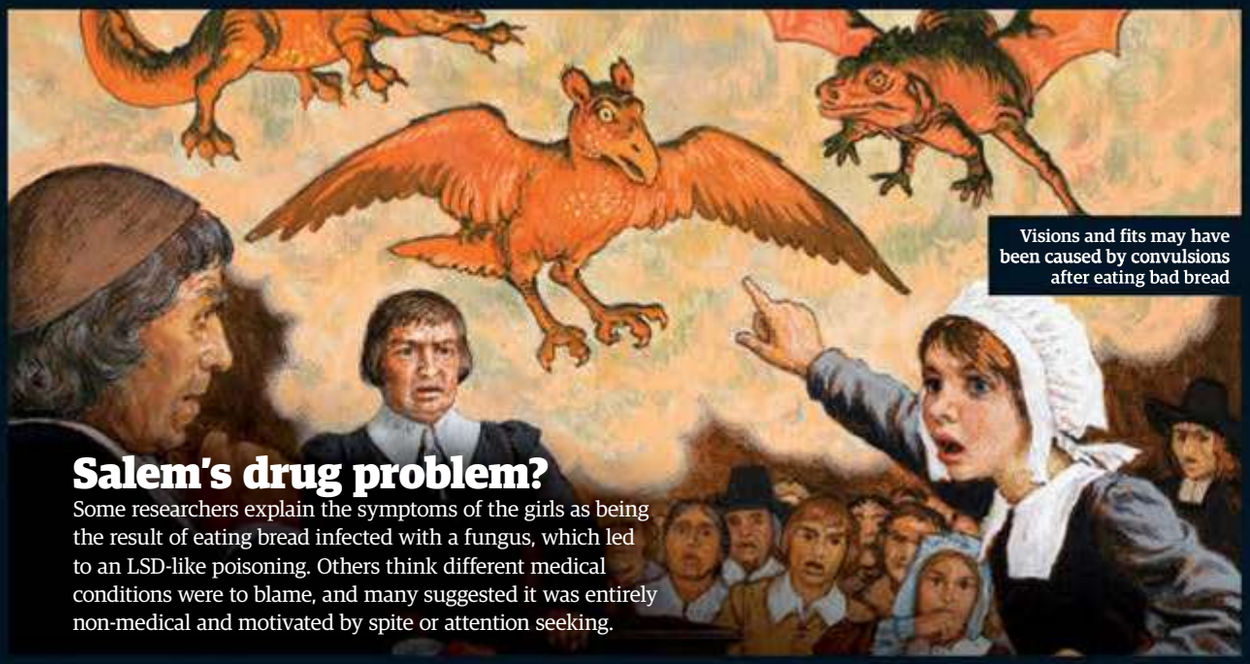
The Salem witch trials were a series of prosecutions of suspected witches blamed for causing a group of girls to suffer fits. Fear spread quickly, leading to the arrest and imprisonment of about 150 men, women and children. Before public opinion turned against the trials, 20 of them were executed.

When did it happen?

The first girls suffering fits were afflicted in January 1692, and by March the accusations and arrests of the 'witches' had begun. The first trials and hangings took place in June and continued throughout the summer, but by the end of the year doubts surfaced about the authenticity of the accusations. The final prisoners were freed in May 1693.

Where did it happen?

The accusations began in Salem Village, now Danvers, and quickly spread to several other communities in Massachusetts - Salem Town, Ipswich and Andover. These were settlements already under stress, threatened by attack from Native American tribes, suffering from a smallpox epidemic and ravaged by disputes and rivalry with their neighbours.



Visions and fits may have been caused by convulsions after eating bad bread

Salem's drug problem?

Some researchers explain the symptoms of the girls as being the result of eating bread infected with a fungus, which led to an LSD-like poisoning. Others think different medical conditions were to blame, and many suggested it was entirely non-medical and motivated by spite or attention seeking.

Coffin in the glass

It all began when Betty Parris and Abigail Williams broke an egg white into a glass of water to see what shape it would take, thinking it would indicate the profession of their future husbands. When the egg appeared as a coffin, Betty fell into a hysterical fit, which soon spread to others.

How to survive

Most of the 150 people who were accused avoided death. The best way to escape the hangman's noose was to confess to witchcraft. Many also tried to help themselves by accusing others, fuelling more arrests. Interrogators often chose easy targets who they thought would confess. Torture was used if they did not.

A sinister motive

Many of the accused had crossed Salem resident Thomas Putnam over previous years. This has led to suggestions that the trials were abused by him to settle old scores and grudges. Of the 21 accusation records that survive, 15 were signed by at least one member of the Putnam family.

More weight

Five men were among the 19 who were hanged, while Giles Corey was pressed to death because he refused to enter a plea. Heavier and heavier rocks were placed on his chest until his ribs cracked and he could not breathe. According to tradition, his last words were "more weight."

Why were they believed?

Belief that the devil gave witches the power to harm others was widespread in Puritan New England. Much of the proof used was spectral evidence, where accusers said they had a vision of the person who was afflicting them. When spectral evidence was deemed inadmissible, the trials came to an abrupt end.

William Stoughton, chief justice and prosecutor, was the driving force behind the trials

The Crucible

Playwright Arthur Miller saw parallels between the Salem witch trials and life in 1950s America. He wrote *The Crucible* as a critical allegory of McCarthyism. He fictionalised many aspects of the witch trials, especially the invention of a love story between Abigail Williams and John Proctor – in real life, she was 11 and he was 60.

Key figures

Tituba
Unknown-unknown
A Native American slave, Tituba was the first to confess to using witchcraft after being beaten by her owner.

Cotton Mather
1663-1728
A Puritan minister and vigorous supporter of the trials, Mather was influential in the creation of the courts for the trials.

William Stoughton
1631-1701
Chief justice of the court, Stoughton was in charge of the trials and a firm believer in the use of spectral evidence.

Rebecca Nurse
1621-1692
Initially cleared of witchcraft, Nurse was executed after Stoughton urged the jury to reconsider its verdict.

William Phips
1651-1695
Governor of Massachusetts, Phips established the court and later disbanded it, perhaps because his wife was accused.

Key events

The hysteria begins
20 January 1692
Two girls begin to suffer fits that are quickly deemed to be the result of witchcraft.

The authorities become involved
29 February 1692
Thomas and Edward Putnam file a complaint to magistrates and the first arrest warrants for witches are issued.

The first victim
10 June 1692
Bridget Bishop is the first to be hanged for witchcraft, two days after her trial.

The deadliest day
22 September 1692
Eight people are hanged but critics of the hysteria are becoming more vocal.

Beginning of the end
6 December 1692
A new court is created to deal with witch trials and spectral evidence is banned.

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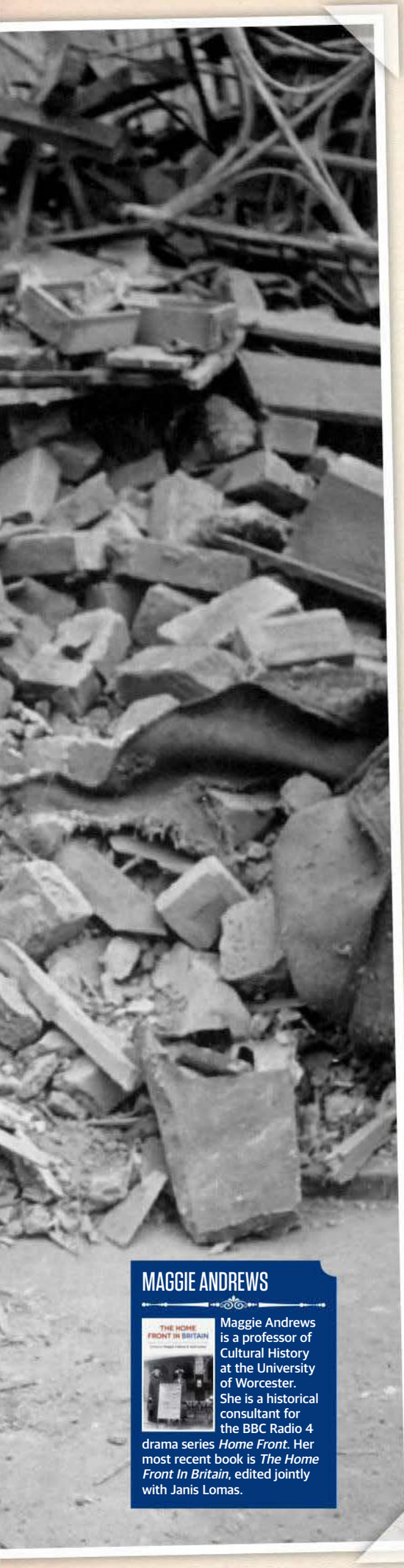


VE DAY 70TH ANNIVERSARY

REBUILDING BRITAIN

World War II tore homes and families apart, but Britain would rise stronger than ever

Written by Maggie Andrews

World War II placed an almighty strain on the population of Britain. Bombing, rationing, food and fuel shortages, families fractured by men and women away in the armed forces or undertaking war work and children evacuated to safety meant that many, on the home and battle fronts, idealised home life. The legacies of war resulted in many finding their dreams of home and family hard to attain in the post-war world. It wasn't just buildings that needed to be rebuilt.

The announcement that war in Europe was over was greeted with much excitement; Joan Carmichael recalled:

> ***VE day came after I had been working in Bath for just over a year. With some friends from the office, including the boss and his wife, we all rushed down to the centre of Bath and found a nice pub, where we had a celebratory meal and lots of drinks. Later in the evening we joined the crowds dancing around Bath Abbey until the small hours. Someone suggested going to London to celebrate there, so we caught the early morning train with a two-hour journey to Paddington and somehow – tube, taxi, walking, I cannot remember – we made our way to St Paul's, the symbol of Britain surviving the Blitz. Hundreds of people were walking around.***

VE day was not the end of hostilities – the British army was still involved in conflicts in the Middle

MAGGIE ANDREWS

Maggie Andrews is a professor of Cultural History at the University of Worcester. She is a historical consultant for the BBC Radio 4 drama series *Home Front*. Her most recent book is *The Home Front In Britain*, edited jointly with Janis Lomas.

Rebuilding Britain

and Far East. Many men and women were stationed in Europe and the majority of those in the fighting forces were not demobbed until 1946, by which time they had contributed to electing a Labour government. The transition between war and peace was fuzzy. For many their dream of 'happy ever after' life was delayed. Barbara Cooke met her future husband on a train in 1944 and they continued their courtship by mail, meeting occasionally when he was on leave. When he received orders of an overseas posting, they set the date for their wedding – 7 May 1945.

Mrs Redford, wearing her husband's medals, was widowed in the war

The wedding dress was a collection of coupons that everybody collected together and the dress was bought from John Lewis in Leicester for the grand sum of £16. The dress was made with plain heavy white satin. Around four o'clock it came over on the radio; the newscaster announced that the hostilities had ceased, making me the 'last wartime bride'. Along with our wedding telegrams came one for my husband, Tom, to return to his unit immediately.

Two and a half million couples were apart for long periods of time between 1939 and 1946. A third of a million merchant seaman, servicemen and women and 67,635 civilians had been killed; for some there would be no return to normality. James Teather met his future wife, Marjorie, when he was wounded and she was a nurse at Longdon Hall, Staffordshire, and they were married in 1943. In October 1944, Teather was killed over Belgium and her son recalls how in 1945 she found "her plans for the future destroyed by the war. Widowed and a single mother at 22." However, 18 months later she met and married another RAF hero and they remained together until his death in 1994.

The return of many men from the armed forces was tinged with the anxiety they felt about their wives' behaviour during their absence. Wives, mothers and sweethearts were emblems of the homes and country that the war was fought to protect; nevertheless, questions about whether women were worthy of men's sacrifices lurked at the back of some soldiers' minds. The high number of foreign troops that were stationed on British soil and Nazi propaganda that suggested American troops were 'lend-leasing' British women had not assuaged their concerns. Nor did the *News Of The World*'s almost weekly coverage of stories of

Returning evacuees found it hard to re-adjust to home life

The 1945 film *The Wicked Lady* is said to confront wartime infidelity

The remains of homes in London during the Blitz

violent incidents caused by returning servicemen's discovery of their infidelity, which accompanied the forces' demobilisation.

Some men and women faced moral dilemmas about whether to disclose wartime misdemeanours. During the conflict, women's magazines advised wives against undermining men's morale by confessing to extra-marital affairs. Sometimes the consequences of a wife's infidelity were clear for all to see, and married women who found themselves pregnant in their husband's absence became a new group of mothers with illegitimate children.

The atmosphere of sexual suspicion could be acted upon speedily, thanks to the quickie divorces available to those in the forces. Divorce petitions in England and Wales leapt from approximately 9,970 in 1938 to 24,857 in 1945, and reached a post-war peak of 47,042 in 1947. Men who discovered their wives had been unfaithful initiated two thirds of them. At least, this was the reason given. It was in a couple's financial interests for the husband to take on the role of injured party if he was in the forces, to gain a cheap divorce. For some couples it may have been a mutual decision, given the speed of some marriages at the outset of war and how many years and experiences had followed the nuptials.

Reconstructing fractured, tentative family units was emotionally taxing, although both the radio and women's magazines were full of advice for women about how to create the perfect post-war home and family. *Woman's Hour* was introduced in 1946, when television also returned with TV cooks Philip Harben and Marguerite Pattern. In practice, many families felt estranged from one-another. Douglas Wood, who had been evacuated to Staffordshire, found it difficult to re-adjust when he went home. He recalled:

Well, it was very difficult actually because I didn't have any affinity with my family. When my father eventually came back from the war, he was then working night shifts cleaning buses. My mother was working shifts on the buses as a bus conductress and there was my brother, my sister and myself who were left to our own devices a great deal of the time. We were still relatively young of course, and, you know, it was quite a violent household and quite a

THE BLITZ IN NUMBERS

267 days long

6 British cities targeted

7 London attacked 71 times

40,000 civilians killed

100 TONS of high explosives dropped

1 million London homes destroyed or damaged

Prefabs

Ready-made homes delivered straight to your not-yet-existent doorstep

In an effort to address the post-war housing shortage, wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill envisaged houses built on factory production lines that could be delivered on lorries and ready to live in within hours. The AIROH (Aircraft Industries Research Organisation on Housing) house was an all-aluminium bungalow assembled from just four sections, all of which were fitted with a kitchen and bathroom. Future Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock lived in an AIROH prefab: "It seemed like living in a spaceship."

© Peters & Zabransky

Schoolchildren help workmen put up prefab houses in April 1946

Members of a bombed-out family sleep in a neighbour's living room

poor household, it was a shame really but the contrast to me was really unbearable, the contrast to what I'd been so used to. And I didn't have a Birmingham accent.

The problems were exaggerated for many families by difficulties in finding suitable places to turn into a home. Although St Paul's Cathedral had survived the blitz, hundreds of thousands of houses across the UK had been destroyed and damaged. The British economy faced crippling debts to the USA and a balance of payments crisis. The austerity measures, shortages and more severe rationing that followed VE day meant rebuilding Britain proved a much slower process than many had imagined. During the war, damages to houses were addressed – tiles and slates were replaced, tarpaulins and plumbing improved and more than two million houses repaired by 1944 – but the doodlebugs of 1944 and 1945 destroyed more homes.

Government policy was to prioritise repairing the already-existing housing stock before building new houses; by the end of 1946, 85 per cent of necessary house repairs were completed. This approach – given the severe housing crisis, scarcity of resources and skilled labour – was rational; however, men returning from war looking forward to a home of their own, and seeking to start a new life with their wife and family, found the situation disappointing. Paul Baker recalls his father:

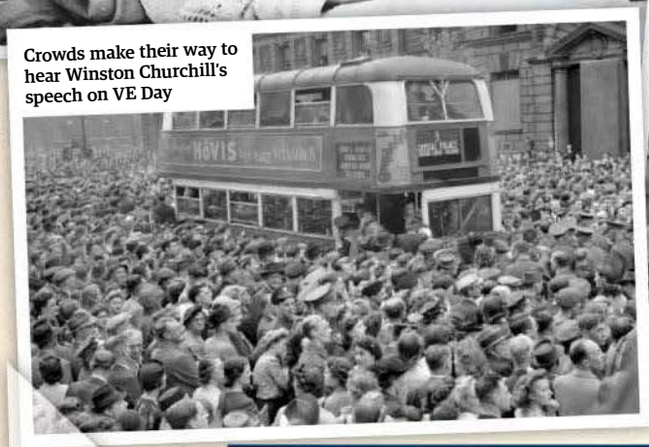
I was due to come home from Italy in 1945 but at the last minute his troop's ship was diverted left on the Med instead of going right through Gibraltar to Greece to fight the EOKA terrorists in Athens. So, in fact, he didn't come back until 1946, so when he came back into Coventry, he'd actually been crossed off the council house waiting list and he felt very bitter about that, because he was coming back and saying: "Well I've just come back from the war."

In the struggle to find a home, many lived in one of more than 50 per cent of rural homes with no piped water to the house or lived in overcrowded late 19th and early 20th-century urban housing, which desperately needed updating. In London, Victorian and Edwardian houses were divided into rented rooms with numerous families often sharing a single sink and toilet. In exasperation and desperation, tens of thousands of people, including many ex-servicemen, moved in August 1946 into empty military camps around Britain – including Drayton Bassett in Staffordshire. The squatting movement spread to hotels and empty apartments around Britain, some staying a few weeks, others staying for many years.

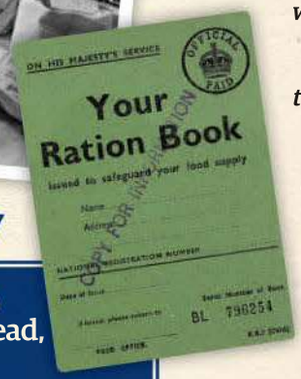
Nellie Rigby, who married ex-RAF serviceman Rob in 1946, was luckier. After living for a couple of months in the Wavertree area of Liverpool with her husband's sister and family, she remembered that: "In May we got a letter to say we have been awarded a prefab. And we was so thrilled." Prefabricated bungalows, or 'prefabs' as they were called, were supposed to be temporary and last for only ten years, but actually remained much longer and were immensely popular. These aluminium bungalows were planned during the war to deal with the expected post-war housing shortages. A prototype was exhibited outside the Tate Museum in 1944 and it was met with approval. Consequently, Churchill announced plans for half a million to be built.

Prefabs were made in factories that had previously produced wartime aircraft. German and Italian Prisoners of War assembled those on the Excalibur Estate, in Catford, southeast London, from 1945 to 1946. Eddie O'Mahony was one of the first to move into this estate after his return from serving in Singapore. He was initially unconvinced, but his wife Ellen was delighted by the fitted kitchen, indoor bathroom, fireplace, boiler and fitted cupboards. The detached two-bedroom properties had their own garden and were painted throughout in magnolia. They were nicknamed 'the people's palaces'. However, rising production costs and the Labour government's desire to build permanent homes of high standard meant that fewer than

Aneurin Bevan visits the Davyhulme Park Hospital in Manchester

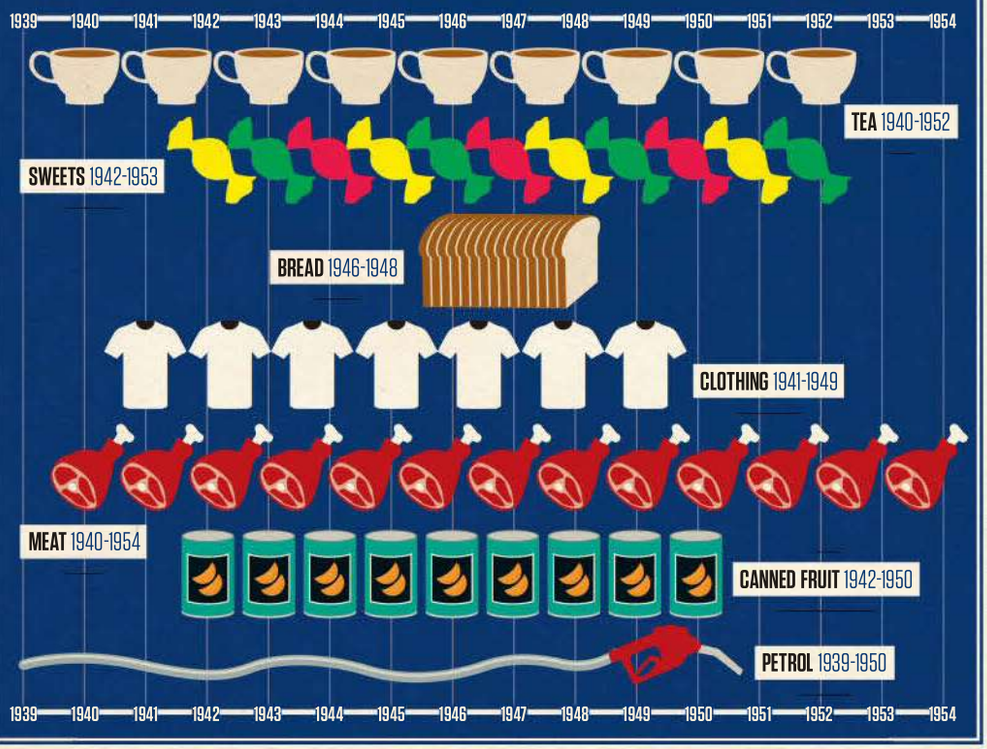


Crowds make their way to hear Winston Churchill's speech on VE Day



POST-WAR RATIONING

The end of war did not mark the end of rationing. Instead, it would continue for almost ten more years



160,000 were completed. Instead, in 1946 the government introduced the New Towns Act, which initiated developments in Harlow, Crawley, Hemel Hempsted and Stevenage in the 1950s.

The rebuilding of Britain was not just about creating homes, it also required schools and hospitals. The 1944 Education Act raised the school leaving age to 15, but improvements were hampered by a shortage of teachers and appropriate buildings. The need for greater speed in new school buildings was one of the main themes of the National Union of Teachers' Annual Conference in 1946, when the president stated that: "Three-quarters of the schools in the country do not comply with the ministry's new building regulations." But one of the real successes of post-war Britain was the National Health Service. After many months of political wrangling to persuade doctors to participate, on 3 July 1948, the *Daily Mail* announced that:

> ***On Monday morning you will wake up in a new Britain, in a state that 'takes over' its citizens six months before they are born, providing care and free services for their birth, for their early years, their schooling, sickness and workless days, widowhood and retirement. All with free doctoring, dentistry and medicine – bath chairs too, if needed.***

When, two days later, health secretary Aneurin Bevan opened Park Hospital in Manchester, it was the culmination of an ambitious plan to take care of the health care needs of the whole population and to make medical care free at the point of delivery to meet people's needs. Dr John Marks, a newly qualified doctor working in Shoreditch, remembered:

> ***The demand when the NHS started was unbelievable. Before the health service started, there was guaranteed treatment through National Health Insurance for low-paid workers, but their families were excluded. There was an enormous demand for surgery for previously untreated conditions.***

In the years that followed VE day, Britain gradually rebuilt itself – the NHS, schools, houses and new towns. Finally, in 1954, the end of rationing provided the wherewithal for ordinary people to rebuild every-day family life and create the people's peace.

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HEROES & VILLAINS

Ada Lovelace

This unusual countess was one of the most influential figures in the history of technology, and one you have most likely never heard of

Written by Alex Hoskins

That the world's first computer programmer was a Victorian woman is remarkable in itself, but that she was the daughter of one of literature's most well-known poets adds such colour to the story it is difficult to understand how it isn't more widely known. Born in 1815, Ada Lovelace is not a name that draws the same reverence or even recognition as the likes of Alan Turing, Charles Babbage or Tim Berners-Lee – all undeniable innovators in technology. Yet she was the first to imagine the potential that modern computers held, and her predictions so accurately mirrored what later became the technological revolution that she is seen by many as a visionary, and even, by some, a prophet.

Understanding Ada's ancestry and childhood is key to discovering how this unlikely historical figure played her part in the creation and proliferation of the computer. Her mother, Anne Isabella 'Annabella' Byron, didn't want her daughter to grow up to be like her father, the eminent poet Lord Byron. He was tempestuous and prone to mood swings – the true picture of a popular poet. Annabella was terrified Ada would inherit her father's instabilities – a fear that would prove to be not entirely unfounded. As such, it was upon Annabella's insistence that her daughter be brought up completely in control of herself, able to apply logic and certainly not preoccupied with sensation and emotions in the same way that her father was.

If flights of fancy were Annabella's concern, there were signs early in Ada's life that her determination had not suppressed all of these tendencies. At the age of 12, Ada was already developing a curious scientific mind, and became obsessed with the idea of learning to fly. In the hope of achieving this lofty ambition, Ada undertook extensive and methodical research into materials that could be used to make effective wings and examined birds and insects for further inspiration. She gathered her findings in a volume and named it '*Flyology*'. At first, Annabella encouraged her daughter's enthusiasm for research and science, but as the obsession took hold, Ada was forced by her mother to abandon her project.

Ada's mother forbade her from seeing a portrait of her father, Lord Byron, until she was 20 years old

Enemies

Augusta Leigh

In 1841, Ada's mother informed her that her half-cousin Medora Leigh was in fact her half-sister, following an incestuous affair between Lord Byron and his half-sister Augusta Leigh. Ada wrote: "I am not in the least astonished," and blamed the affair on Augusta, writing: "I feel 'she' is more inherently wicked than 'he' ever was."

Bruce Collier

Ada's work has been the source of much contention, with many dismissing her part in the project. One historian, Bruce Collier, wrote: "It is no exaggeration to say that she [had] the most amazing delusions about her own talents, and a rather shallow understanding of both Charles Babbage and the Analytical Engine."

Ada is believed to have written an algorithm for the Analytical Engine, designed by Babbage

Annabella's insistence on bringing up her daughter firmly rooted in logic was most likely inspired by her own interest in mathematics, and manifested itself in many, occasionally odd, ways. Part of Ada's 'education' was to observe the task of lying still for hours on end, an activity designed to teach 'self control'. In addition, Annabella was not a particularly maternal force, referring to Ada in letters as "it", and leaving Ada in the care of her grandmother, Lady Judith Millbanke. However, Judith died when Ada was six years old, and from then on her guardianship was covered by various nannies, and later, tutors, who had been chosen and approved by Annabella.

Lord Byron, Ada's father, had left two months after her birth for a life in Italy. His marriage to Annabella had ended abruptly, in a slew of scandalous rumours of affairs between Byron and a chorus girl, myriad financial troubles and rumoured violence and abuse. After travelling to Italy, where he stayed with Percy Bysshe and Mary Shelley, Byron's final years were spent in Greece, where he had joined the forces fighting for independence from the Ottoman Empire. It was here that he died in 1824, when Ada was just eight years old – the two never met.

While the mathematical passions of her mother meant Ada had endured some unorthodox methods in her upbringing, it also meant that she received an extraordinary gift, rare for women in the 19th century – a comprehensive mathematical education. Ada's tutors were a diverse group of academics, reading as a 'who's who' of early to mid-19th century intellectuals. Among the most notable were William Frend, a renowned social reformer; William King, the family's doctor, and perhaps most notably, Mary Somerville, a fellow female mathematician and astronomer.

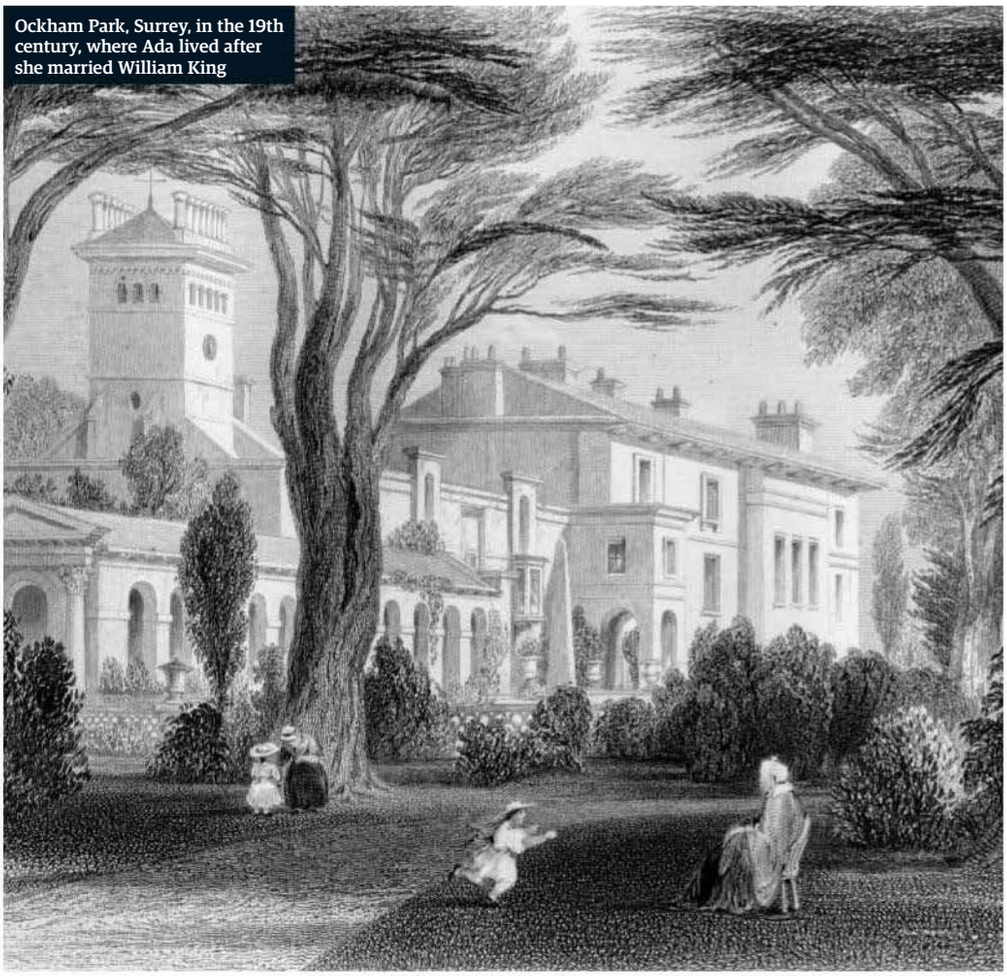
"Ada became obsessed with the idea of learning to fly'"

Five years after her obsessive research into flight, Ada met a man who would prove integral to her life, and in particular, her intellectual pursuits. Charles Babbage was a technological innovator and had created the Analytical Engine – the device generally considered to be the first computer. Babbage was 42, and yet despite the gap of more than 20 years between them, a friendship would grow that would not only provide them with comfort and intellectual stimulation, but provide the world with its most revolutionary invention yet – the computer.

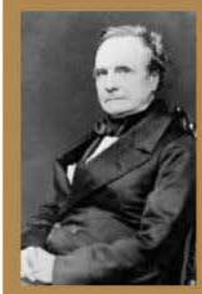
Babbage had been working under commission from the British government on a machine called the Difference Engine, but the Analytical Engine was something far more complex. Where the Difference Engine was essentially a calculator, designed to eliminate inaccuracies by fallible humans, the Analytical Engine could perform more complex calculations, stretching far beyond numbers. This was the first time any such machine had been conceived, let alone designed.

Babbage couldn't secure funding for his research into the new machine while the last project remained unfinished, but his determination to progress the Analytical Engine spurred him on, until he eventually found a sympathetic reception in Italy. In 1842, an Italian mathematician named Luigi Menabrea published an essay on the function of the machine. The text was in French, and Ada's talent for languages coupled with her mathematical understanding made her the perfect candidate to translate the document for Babbage. Over the course of nine months, she did this, but while the memoir was valuable, it paled in comparison to Ada's additions, which Babbage had suggested she should add in as she saw fit.

The notes that Ada made alongside the document were ground breaking. They exceeded the document she had translated, not just in length, but in depth and insight. One of the most quoted phrases, "the Analytical Engine weaves algebraic patterns just as the Jacquard loom weaves flowers and leaves," is a particularly feminine turn of


Ockham Park, Surrey, in the 19th century, where Ada lived after she married William King

Allies



Charles Babbage

Ada was introduced to the polymath when she was 17 and they began a lifelong friendship. Babbage called her an "enchantress of numbers that has thrown her magical spell around the most abstract of sciences and has grasped it with a force that few masculine intellects could have exerted over it."

Mary Somerville

A fellow scientist and mathematician, Somerville mentored Ada when she was a child and the young countess developed a strong respect and affection for her. They continued their correspondence right up until Ada's death in 1852, at the age of 36.

Kim & Toole

Fierce defenders of Ada's legacy, they wrote: "[Ada] was certainly capable of writing the program herself given the proper formula; this is clear from her depth of understanding regarding the process of programming and from her improvements on Babbage's programming notation."

phrase, strategically plucked from a much more lengthy, as well as technical, comparison of the machine to the Jacquard loom. In fact, most of the text is purely scientific, of a tone that wouldn't be out of place in a modern-day programming textbook. For example, she wrote: "When the value on any variable is called into use, one of two consequences may be made to result."

Ada also used the example of the complex numerical sequence known as Bernoulli numbers to prove the ability of the machine to calculate complex sequences from an original program. Detractors have used this against Lovelace, taking it as proof that the observations expressed in her notes weren't truly hers, but simply a relaying of information given to her by Babbage. Indeed, Ada did not have a full understanding of calculus, but even if Bernoulli numbers were the suggestion of Babbage, the principle of her assumptions remained the same. It was the insight for potential in her translation of this document that earned Countess Lovelace the moniker the 'World's First Computer Programmer'.

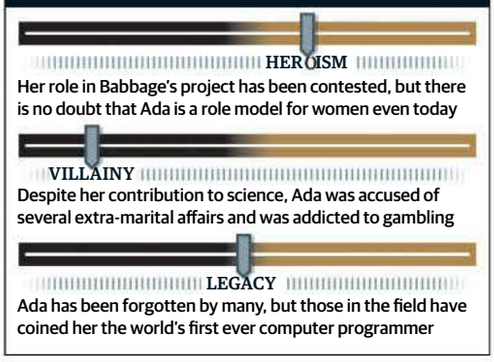
> On Artificial Intelligence, Ada concluded that computers could never have original thoughts

Ada saw herself foremost as an "analyst and metaphysician," but while her scientific prowess earned her a place in history, she lived a generally unremarkable domestic life. In 1835, two years after her first meeting with Babbage, Ada married William King, 8th Baron of King, later to become the Earl of Lovelace. Ada and William would go on to have three children, the first, named Byron, born in May 1836. Two siblings shortly followed: Anne in September 1837 and Ralph in July 1839.

Ada suffered with health problems, both mentally and in the form of physical sicknesses, including cholera, from which she recovered. Annabella held Ada, William and the family in her financial thrall and as such, they lived on her terms. This, combined with William's sometimes controlling, even abusive, character, was at odds with Ada's friendly and fiercely independent nature. Affairs were rumoured, one in particular with the tutor to Ada's children, William Benjamin Carpenter, but there is no evidence that she ever embarked on an extra-marital relationship.

Ada died of uterine cancer aged just 36, the same age as her father, and was out-lived by her mother. In the years following her death, incredible advances have been made in the fields of technology, and her prophecies have been realised. The authenticity of her authorship has been questioned, but her findings proved invaluable to Alan Turing's work in the mid-20th century and were re-published at that time. Her legacy continues in the form of Ada Lovelace day, observed annually on 15 October. The day has the aim of raising awareness and interest for women in science. Ada was an unusual person in so many ways, and a remarkable one, and she continues to inspire those who feel that they must defy expectation to follow their passions.

Hero or villain?


HEROISM
Her role in Babbage's project has been contested, but there is no doubt that Ada is a role model for women even today
VILLAINY
Despite her contribution to science, Ada was accused of several extra-marital affairs and was addicted to gambling
LEGACY
Ada has been forgotten by many, but those in the field have coined her the world's first ever computer programmer

© Alamy, Getty Images

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Now an industry worth millions of pounds and that invests huge amounts in research, sports equipment has seen many changes since the Ancient Olympics

Many different dartboard layouts have been tried but Gamlin's has stood the test of time

DARTBOARD 1896

People had thrown miniature javelins or darts at targets as a form of recreation for centuries before Bury carpenter Brian Gamlin devised a segmented target with numbers one to 20 on it. Gamlin's stroke of genius was that the higher scoring segments were separated by lower ones to make the game harder. He used the target on his fairground stall claiming "no skill required." His dartboard has stood the test of time, although there are thousands of other possible number layouts.

Some thought that metal tennis rackets damaged the sport by making it reliant on technology

METAL TENNIS RACKET 1967

For 100 years tennis players used wooden rackets that changed little, until Wilson introduced the first steel racket in 1967. The T2000 had a tubular steel frame that was lighter and featured a new method of stringing, allowing shots to be hit with more power. Manufacturers then ploughed money into research and signed deals to supply top players with their brands. Steel was soon superseded by lighter aluminium and carbon-graphite rackets, while newer models included bigger heads and longer handles.

Jimmy Connors
1952-PRESENT, AMERICAN
One of the first tennis players to embrace metal rackets, Connors used a Wilson T2000 to win multiple Grand Slam titles and become the number one player in the world. Connors used his T2000 for 20 years and by the time he stopped using it in the 1980s, it was already out of date.

JOUSTING LANCE 14TH CENTURY

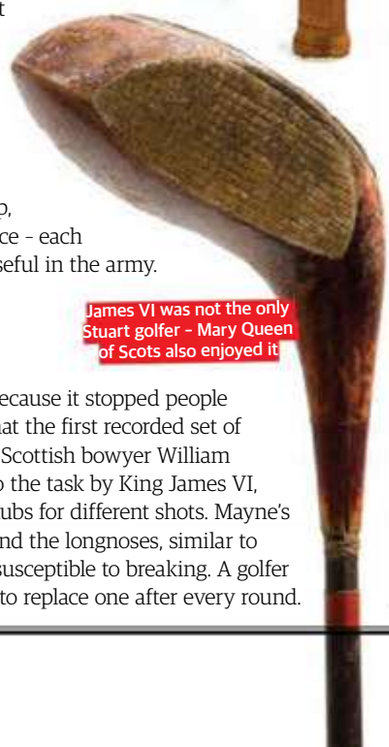
Jousting emerged as a sport in the later Middle Ages, allowing competitors to show their skill with horse and lance away from the battlefield. Jousting lances were blunt, often ending in a cup, and the middle was hollow so the lance would break rather than unhorse an opponent. However, jousts could still be dangerous – Henry VIII was seriously injured in a jousting accident in 1536, while Henry II of France died from wounds that he suffered from a broken lance fragment 23 years later.

Jousting mimicked the role of heavy cavalry in a sporting arena

Myron's famous Discobolus statue actually shows a rather inefficient way to throw the discus

DISCUS 708 BCE

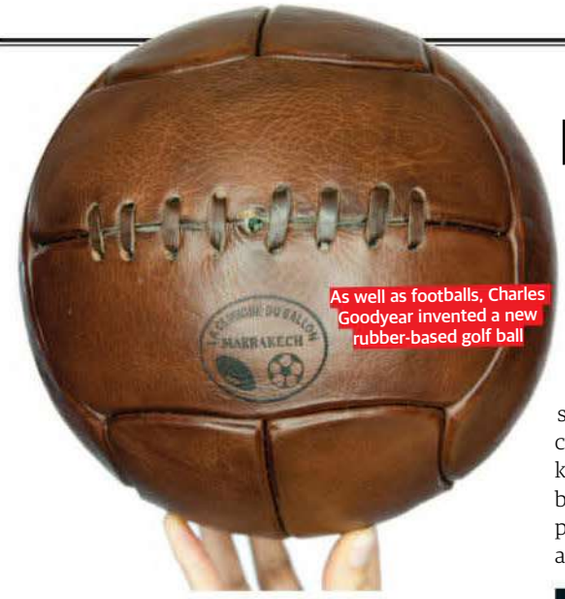
Little equipment was required in the Ancient Greek Olympics – most of the events were running races and competitors often participated naked. However, one event that did require equipment was the discus throw, first recorded at the 18th Olympiad in 708 BCE. Unlike today, Ancient Greek athletes threw a bronze discus from a raised platform. The discus was not a separate event but formed part of the pentathlon with the long jump, javelin, wrestling and a foot race – each involved skills thought to be useful in the army.



James VI was not the only Stuart golfer – Mary Queen of Scots also enjoyed it

GOLF CLUBS 1603

Golf was banned in Scotland in 1467 because it stopped people from practising archery, so it's ironic that the first recorded set of manufactured golf clubs was made by Scottish bowyer William Mayne in 1603. He was appointed to the task by King James VI, who wanted different types of clubs for different shots. Mayne's clubs were made of wood and the longnoses, similar to today's drivers, were susceptible to breaking. A golfer would typically need to replace one after every round.

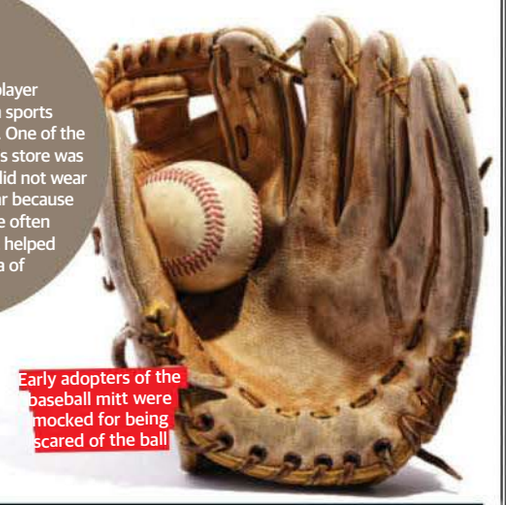


As well as footballs, Charles Goodyear invented a new rubber-based golf ball

BASEBALL MITT 1875

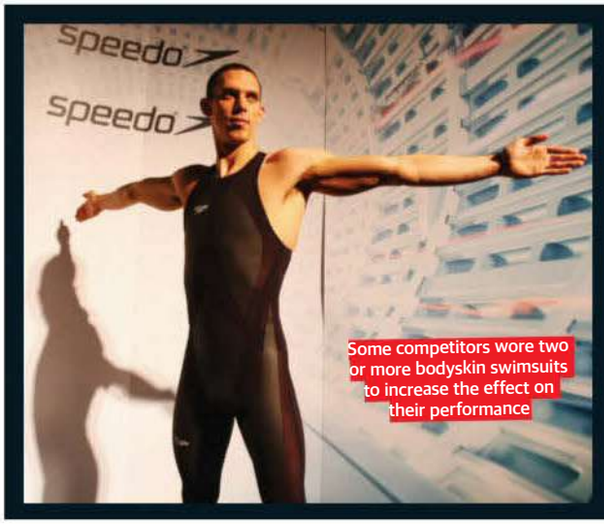
In the early years of baseball, players caught the ball bare-handed. In 1875, Charlie Waitt first used gloves while playing for the St Louis Brown Stockings, after which the baseball mitt slowly became more popular. They were initially simple leather gloves with the fingers cut off to improve ball control and players kept them on whether pitching or batting. Soon the gloves became too large and unwieldy to hold a bat with. More padding was added and a piece of webbing between thumb and forefinger created a pocket for the ball.

Albert Spalding
1850-1915, AMERICAN
Professional baseball player Spalding formed his own sports equipment company in 1876. One of the first products to be sold in his store was a baseball mitt, although he did not wear one himself for another year because early glove wearers were often ridiculed. When he did, it helped to remove the stigma of wearing a mitt.


Early adopters of the baseball mitt were mocked for being scared of the ball

VULCANISED FOOTBALL 1855

Prior to the mid-1850s, footballs were made from inflated animal bladders covered in leather. They were often irregular shapes and behaved unpredictably. The first modern football was created when engineer Charles Goodyear designed a rubber bladder using the process of vulcanisation, which he invented. The new bladder pressured the outer leather into shape, did not become malformed in hot or cold weather and bounced well. But the leather still absorbed water and became very heavy in wet conditions, leading to head and neck injuries until synthetic coverings were adopted.



Some competitors wore two or more bodyskin swimsuits to increase the effect on their performance

BODYSKIN SWIMSUIT 2008

New developments in sporting equipment are not always welcomed. The Speedo LZR Racer swimsuit was designed to reduce drag and improve the performance of competitive swimmers. It was created with the aid of NASA facilities and featured ultrasonic welding of the seams and water-repelling material. It certainly aided performance – three world records were broken by athletes using the bodyskin swimsuit within a week – but the swimsuit was quickly criticised as "technological doping" and bodyskin swimsuits were banned within a year of the LZR Racer's launch.

The judogi was based on the traditional Japanese kimono

JUDOGI 1906

Japanese martial arts have their origins in the samurai period but were only codified as sports at the turn of the 20th century. Among the first was judo, which was founded by Kanō Jigorō. Kanō decided that competitors should wear a three-piece judogi, made up of a heavy jacket, lighter trousers and a belt. It's a simple outfit but there are still rules that must be followed – only blue and white judogi are allowed in competition and the left side of the jacket must overlay the right. Many other martial arts, like karate, subsequently adopted their own versions of the judogi.

Cricket pads are relatively unchanged since they were first used nearly 200 years ago

Alfred Mynn
1807-1861, ENGLISH
Mynn took to using cricket pads after his legs were severely bruised during one match in 1836. He had been sent back to London laid out on the top of a stagecoach and surgeons contemplated amputating his leg. They didn't, and Mynn went on to play nearly 200 more first-class matches for both Kent and Sussex.

CRICKET PADS 1836

Cricket balls are hard, and a batsman's legs are vulnerable to being struck by them. In the early days of the sport, batsmen were often injured and playing careers could come to a sudden end, so pads were introduced to protect the batsman in the 19th century. Cotton, foam and cane rods created piping that wrapped around the leg. Although it made movement more difficult, some batsmen deliberately used the new pads to block the ball, leading to a change in the rules and the introduction of the leg before wicket (lbw) dismissal.

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MARTYR OR MURDERER?

CHE GUEVARA

The remarkable and radical life of a qualified doctor, guerrilla fighter, and unflinching executioner in Cuba's Revolution who sought to export Marxist rebellion across Latin America

Written by **Ian Rimmer**

★★★★★★★

He'd had beer, probably plenty, but it was consumed in celebration rather than for courage. The day before, the Bolivian Army had been in a fierce firefight with communist guerrillas trapped in a mountainside gulley. The enemy had been routed and a few had been captured. But there had been dead on both sides, so when an officer called for an execution volunteer, Sergeant Mario Terán was more than ready to avenge his fallen Bolivian brothers. Beer was not going to affect his aim.

Terán stepped into the humble schoolhouse, the main prisoner's makeshift cell. The captive was filthy, his hair a tangled mess, his clothes torn and ragged. Rather than boots, he'd tied pieces of leather to his feet. Lying on the dirt ground, bleeding from a bullet hole in his leg, he was the very embodiment of the words 'wounded animal'. Terán raised his semi-automatic rifle.

Legend has it that the prisoner said: "I know you have come to kill me. Shoot, coward, you are only going to kill a man." Terán fired. He hit the captive's arms and legs, as he was supposed to make it look like the guerrilla had died in the firefight. As the man writhed on the ground, Terán fired again, fatally hitting his target's thorax. The prisoner's name was Che Guevara. The world's most feared Marxist revolutionary was dead.

39 years earlier, in 1928, Ernesto Guevara de la Serna was born in Rosario, Argentina – and his first brush with death was not far away. Severe breathing difficulties were diagnosed as asthma, and at times the choking attacks were so violent they were feared life-threatening. Often bed-ridden, young Ernesto had time to think, to contemplate his illness, to realise that his next breath, if he could catch it, might actually be his last. Startlingly early in life he became aware of his own mortality. By facing the proximity of death, and not fearing it, he refused to let the illness define him. Yet that live-in-the-moment outlook stayed with him – many years later, his fearlessness in the face of death led Fidel Castro to express surprise that he made it through the Cuban Revolution alive.

The Guevara family moved often during Ernesto's formative years, always searching for an area of Argentina with a climate that might alleviate his condition. Eventually, they came to Alta Gracia, a small town at the foot of the Sierras Chicas in the province of Córdoba, where the dry mountain air offered their firstborn some relief. There, as siblings arrived and the family grew, they continued to move house, meaning the concept of settling, of putting down roots, was something Ernesto never really knew.

His parents were both well educated, coming from families that, while not rich, were far from poor. Due to his illness, Ernesto's schooling was initially intermittent, involving a lot of home tutoring from his mother. Later, as management of his asthma improved, so did his school attendance. He was considered an able, intelligent student, though not one overly interested in the school syllabus. Perhaps this was because in his teenage years he was reading widely and extensively, from political works to French classicists like Dumas and Zola and American authors like Steinbeck. He was also keen on chess and, despite his illness and scrawny physique, a tough and enthusiastic rugby player, even enlisting

el Socialismo

someone to run alongside him down the touchline with his inhaler if it was needed.

By 1947, Ernesto was eligible for conscripted military service, but he was exempted because of his asthma. It was the one time he was grateful for his feeble lungs as it allowed him to continue studying. He enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Buenos Aires, intent on becoming a doctor. Oddly, given this choice, his personal hygiene was notoriously poor. He rather delighted in being nicknamed El Chancho ('the Pig') due to his pungent body odour, just as he enjoyed wearing old, unfashionable or grubby clothes – as much for shock value as anything else.

Such idiosyncrasies would not bother someone who wished to travel, however, and this was something Ernesto was keen to do during university breaks. He first took off alone on a bicycle fitted with a small motor in 1950. As much a test of his own willpower to keep his illness at bay as the bike's hardiness, he travelled some 4,500 kilometres (2,800 miles) to the far north of Argentina. He kept a diary of his adventures, as he did on a subsequent trip he made with his friend Alberto Granado. That one began in January 1952, on a motorbike christened 'The Mighty One', even though it broke down numerous times and was eventually abandoned. The trip took the pair across Argentina to Chile, Peru, Columbia and Venezuela. Ernesto went on further alone, visiting Miami in the United States and returning to Argentina in September 1952.

The diaries gave a clear indication of how the poverty and deprivation that Ernesto witnessed on his travels informed and shaped his world view. Prior to his journeys, even though he had read much political theory, he had not declared himself a supporter of any formal political doctrine. Yet witnessing the poor, the sick and the exploitation – often by companies from the United States – of the indigenous populations of Latin America had affected him deeply.

By October, Ernesto was back studying in Buenos Aries, working towards the exams needed to pass his medical degree. He phoned home one day six months later, stressing that it was Doctor Guevara de la Serna speaking. Almost immediately after qualifying, Ernesto began planning another trip, this time with his friend Calica Ferrer. They set off on 7 July 1953, heading for Caracas in Venezuela, where Alberto was working.

During the trip the pair learned there were revolutionary changes taking place in Guatemala. Ernesto was intrigued. They were together in Ecuador when Calica received an offer to coach a football team in Quito. Ernesto was invited too, but he wanted to continue north, so they split up. They never saw each other again.

THE ROAD FROM ERNESTO TO CHE

The journey that led to a sickly, far-from-poor Argentine youngster signing up to join a revolution in Cuba

14 June 1928
The first child of Ernesto Guevara-Lynch and Celia de la Serna, both from well-educated, well-heeled Argentine families, is named after his father. For distinction, he's referred to as Ernestito.

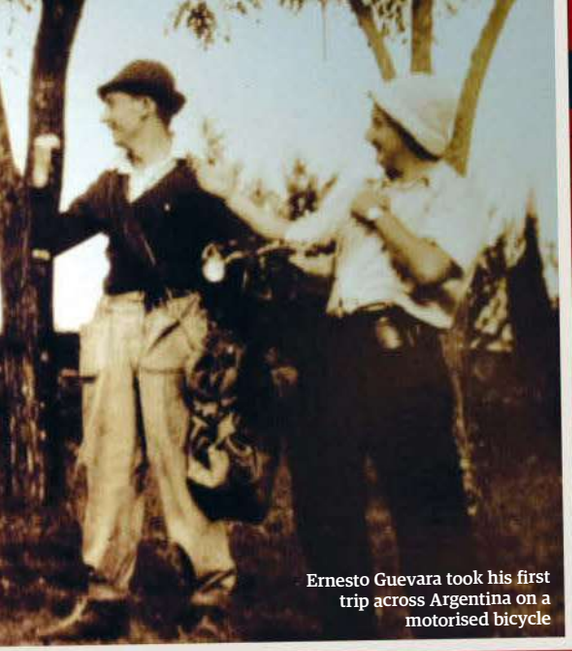
1930
The family return to Buenos Aires for the birth of their second child. There, Ernestito begins having breathing difficulties. The problem is eventually diagnosed as asthma – and it becomes chronic.

1942
Often forced to stay home through his illness, Ernestito reads voraciously. Management of his asthma steadily improves and he attends a good school in Córdoba, making friends with Tomás Granado.

1943
Tomás's older brother Alberto runs a rugby team. The far-from-robust Ernestito nevertheless joins, plays fearlessly, and earns a new nickname from Alberto, 'Fuser', from part furibundo (furious), part Serna.

1947
Fuser and Alberto, a biochemistry student who is also widely read, become firm friends. After graduating from school, Fuser enrols to study medicine at Buenos Aires University, Argentina.

4 January 1952
During a break from their university studies, Fuser and Alberto begin an epic journey on motorbikes to truly discover their South American continent.

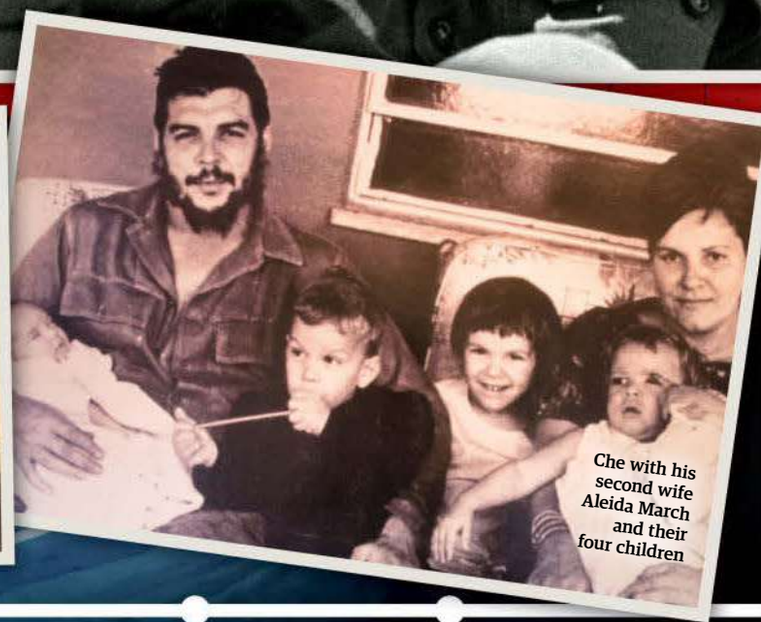


Ernesto Guevara took his first trip across Argentina on a motorised bicycle

En route to Guatemala, Ernesto stopped in Costa Rica, where he met influential political thinkers such as Juan Bosch, who later became president of the Dominican Republic, and Rómulo Betancourt, a future president of Venezuela. Ernesto's political awareness couldn't fail to grow.

And in Guatemala, it mushroomed. First he met Hilda Gadea, a left-wing exile from Peru. Ernesto was a strikingly handsome man and, despite his shabby clothes and lax washing habits, he'd had numerous lovers. Hilda, though no Latin beauty, was as well-read as Ernesto, and they struck up a deep relationship. Her social circle included many exiles from other Latin American countries under right-wing military dictatorships. Included in those that Ernesto met were several Cubans who

In his former home, now a museum dedicated to his life, the motorcycle on which Che travelled across South America is displayed



Che with his second wife Aleida March and their four children

11 February 1952
En route, the pair witness widespread poverty and medical deprivation. At a copper mine run by United States monopolies in Chile, they encounter ruthless exploitation of the indigenous population.

26 September 1952
After visiting Chile, Peru, Colombia and Venezuela, and meeting the likes of Dr Hugo Pesce, an influential Marxist scientist, Fuser returns to university in Buenos Aires to complete his medical degree.

24 December 1953
The now qualified Dr Guevara de la Serna has begun another trip. After hearing of revolutionary social reforms taking place in Guatemala, he arrives in Guatemala City.

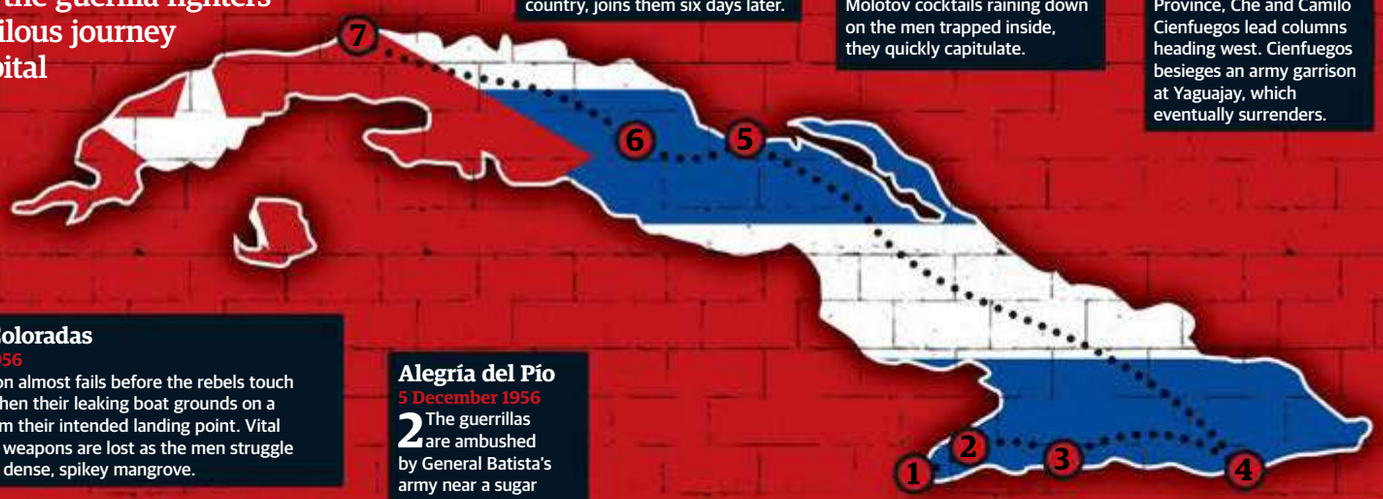
31 December 1953
Dr Guevara meets Hilda Gadea. She has a wide circle of friends and at a New Year's Eve party, he meets a group of Cuban exiles from a failed attack on the Moncada Barracks.

1954
The Cubans call him Che, from his Argentine manner of speaking. Che witnesses the fall of the Guatemala regime first hand and notes the mistakes that its leaders had made.

1955
Fidel Castro, the Cuban exiles' leader, arrives in Mexico. He meets an Argentine doctor, they talk all night, and Fidel's planned revolution gains a new recruit – Che Guevara.

TAKING CUBA

From a shipwreck to mountain hideouts, the guerilla fighters had a perilous journey to the capital



Playa Las Coloradas
2 December 1956
1 The revolution almost fails before the rebels touch Cuban soil when their leaking boat grounds on a sandbar, far from their intended landing point. Vital equipment and weapons are lost as the men struggle ashore through dense, spikey mangrove.

Alegría del Pío
5 December 1956
2 The guerrillas are ambushed by General Batista's army near a sugar plantation. Che is wounded, others killed, others still captured and executed. The survivors scatter. In the thick-forested, sparsely populated mountains of the Sierra Maestra, they gradually regroup.

Sierra Maestra
17 February 1957
3 A *New York Times* reporter, Herbert Matthews, visits their camp and writes about the impressive mountain guerrillas – even though he's tricked into thinking there are far more men than there actually are. Inspired, underground groups begin forming across Cuba.

La Plata
11-21 July 1958
4 Continuously recruiting and training locals, the rebels harass the army. Batista launches an offensive against them, but it goes disastrously wrong at La Plata. 500 soldiers are killed, wounded or captured by Castro's vastly outnumbered force.

Santa Clara
31 December 1958
6 Batista sends an armoured train with hundreds of men and weapons to help defend Santa Clara. Che's force ambushes it after using tractors to rip up the tracks. With Molotov cocktails raining down on the men trapped inside, they quickly capitulate.

Yaguajay
19-30 December 1958
5 The rebels sweep down from the Sierra Maestra on a counter offensive. While Castro's division battles for control of the Oriente Province, Che and Camilo Cienfuegos lead columns heading west. Cienfuegos besieges an army garrison at Yaguajay, which eventually surrenders.

Havana
2 January 1959
7 Within hours of Santa Clara's fall, Batista flees the country. Che and Cienfuegos push on to Havana and take control of the city without opposition. Castro, on a victory march up the country, joins them six days later.

had escaped the island after a failed attack on a barracks. Their leader, still imprisoned in Cuba, was Fidel Castro.

Guatemala had become a haven for political exiles because its government, under President Jacobo Arbenz, was instigating sweeping social reforms including land rights, education and suffrage. This angered American interests, particularly the United Fruit Company. By the spring of 1954, there were strong rumours that rebels, backed by the CIA, were planning to overthrow the president. When planes began bombing raids in the summer, the rumours were confirmed.

Ernesto confessed in letters home that he found the raids thrilling, feeling "...a magic sensation of invulnerability."

He joined a medical unit to help as the fighting intensified, telling everyone who would listen that Arbenz should arm the population to allow them to defend their revolution. As it happened, perhaps under pressure from his military, perhaps attempting to avoid bloodshed, the president resigned, allowing the rebels to take power. Soon, everyone connected with the previous regime, or suspected of communist leanings, were being rounded up. Hilda was arrested. Ernesto took refuge in the Argentine embassy.

He was there a month before being allowed passage to Mexico while Hilda, released from prison after a few days, later joined him. By now, Ernesto's political beliefs were crystallising. He was viewing the region of South America as a whole, believing its various indigenous populations were being exploited and kept in poverty by colonialist corporations largely from the United States. Those populations needed to drive out their abusers from the north, then defend their new freedoms, violently if necessary. He was still unsure, though, if he should attach himself to a particular cause or continue travelling on to Europe – until, in the summer of 1955, he met Fidel Castro.

Several of the Cuban exiles that Hilda and Ernesto had encountered in Guatemala had gone to Mexico too. Fidel and his brother Raul had been granted an amnesty in Cuba. When they joined their fellow exiles in Mexico, the paths of the Castro brothers and Ernesto crossed. At length, Fidel outlined his plan to land a small guerrilla force by boat on Cuba to begin a revolution there. Won over by the charismatic leader who echoed many of Ernesto's own thoughts, he agreed to join the rebel invasion.

Shortly after, Hilda became pregnant and the pair married, but none of that lessened his commitment to the cause. Nicknamed 'Che' by the Cubans – because he used that Argentine word roughly meaning 'mate' or 'pal' in much of his speech – Hilda's husband was principally the group's medic. Yet Che took part in all aspects of military training, eager to prove himself. He was declared "the best guerrilla of them all" by Alberto Bayo, a veteran of the Spanish Civil War who was instructing them.

A force of 82 men squeezed on board a motor launch called Granma when it left Mexico on 25 November 1956. The craft had seen better days. Laden with weapons and equipment, and battling against heavy weather, it took seven days to reach Cuba. Once there, the launch hit a sandbar off the coast. The men had to carry what they could ashore, wading through dense mangrove and thorny bushes. "It was a shipwreck rather than a landing," Che wrote later. Worse, the group quickly came under attack from the Cuban army.

In another brush with death, Che was shot in the neck. Losing a lot of blood, he thought he was going to die, but was pulled to relative safety by the other fighters. In the chaos and confusion, many of the men were killed, others captured and executed. Those that remained alive were scattered across the region.

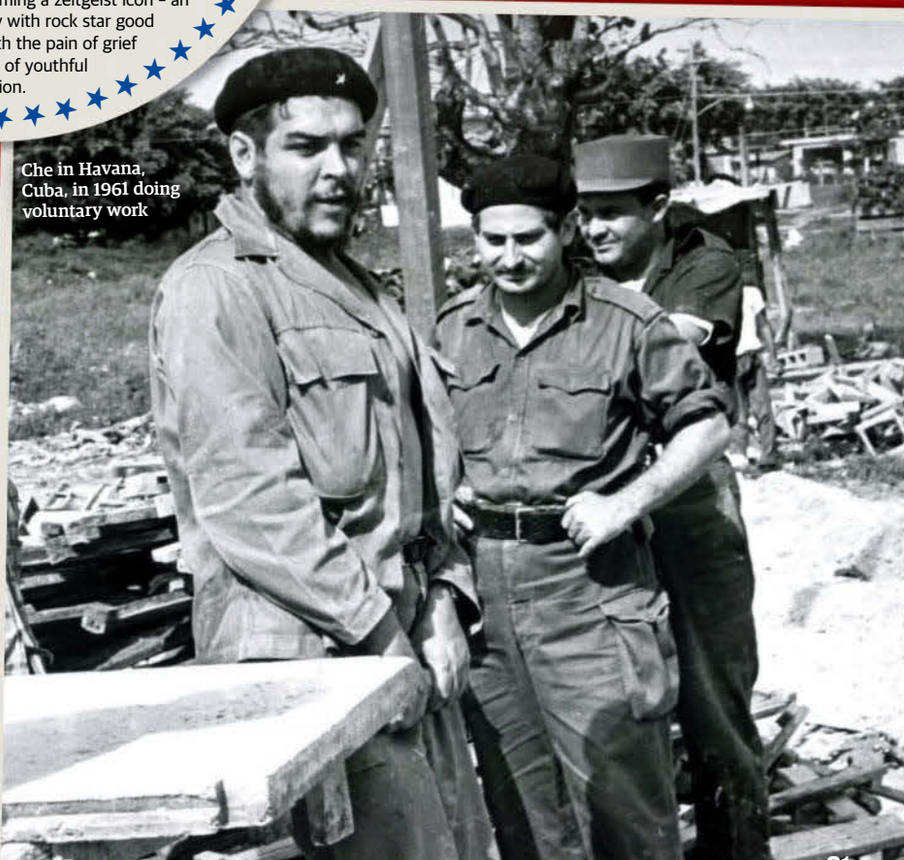
Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara receiving an award

GUERRILLERO HEROICO

Now described as the most reproduced photograph in the world, the 'Heroic Guerrilla' image of Che Guevara was almost lost to history

The picture was actually taken in 1960. Photographer Alberto Korda was covering a memorial service for victims of an explosion, thought to be sabotage, aboard a ship called La Coubre. Che made a brief appearance, and the photographer took two exposures of him. They were never published, but something in one appealed to Korda. He printed a cropped image of it, and hung it on a wall in his studio. It may have stayed there, lost to the eyes of the world, except that in 1967, an Italian publisher, Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, came looking for photos of Che for a publication. Korda allowed the Italian free use of the image on his wall because he was a friend of the revolution. Following Che's death soon after, the photo was widely circulated, becoming a zeitgeist icon – an executed revolutionary with rock star good looks expressing both the pain of grief and the anger of youthful rebellion.

Che (far right) in the last photo taken of him before his death in 1967



Che in Havana, Cuba, in 1961 doing voluntary work

ONE MAN'S FREEDOM FIGHTER IS ANOTHER MAN'S TERRORIST

Weighing up the good against the bad of Che Guevara – a man of extremes

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

GOOD

The root of the problem
Journeying through Latin America, Che observed for himself the problems faced by the vast majority of the region's people. His analysis that this was caused by colonialism and exploitation, largely by corporations of the United States, was devastatingly accurate.

Education, education, education
The local recruits joining the rebels in Sierra Maestra were often illiterate. Che organised classes to teach them to read and write. Subsequently, the literacy campaign in Cuba that began after the revolution was one of his favourite initiatives.

Medic!
As a doctor, Che treated leprosy victims in Peru, people injured during the overthrow of Guatemala's government, rebels under Castro's command, the local population in the Sierra Maestra – and even wounded Batista soldiers after a raid on the El Uvero garrison.

A revolution of the self
Che developed and lived by the concept of the New Man as the way to true socialism. The New Man didn't work for material goods, but had a selfless moral duty to work for society, which in turn nurtured him and his family.

Unshakeable integrity
Many men have ideals, few will die for them as Che did. He lived by the words he wrote to his children in a final letter, wanting them to feel deeply any injustice committed against any person anywhere in the world.

BAD

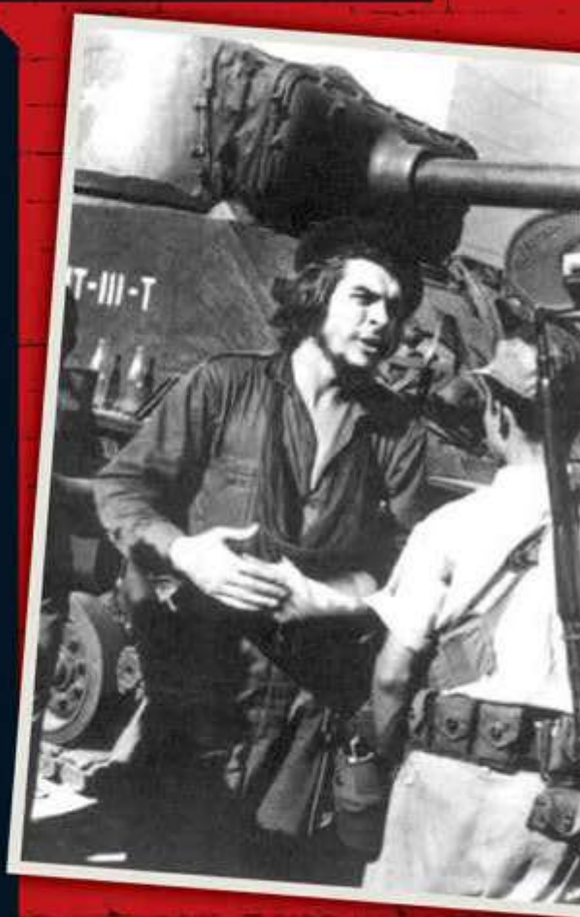
Revolutionary justice
Numbers are disputed, but certainly hundreds were executed at Che's La Cabaña tribunals. The final decision was his, and he didn't let political or humanitarian pleas affect it. To Che, enemies of the revolution had no place in the new Cuba.

The enemy in the north
The dislike and distrust that Che felt for the United States as colonialist exploiters ran very deep. It can be compared to the hatred developed by Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda and other religious fundamentalist terrorist groups.

Cuban missiles
To protect the revolution, even nuclear Armageddon wasn't out of the question. After the Cuban Missile Crisis, Che informed reporter Sam Russell that, fearing invasion, had the missiles been under Cuban control, they would have launched them against the United States.

Executioner
Castro had ordered the execution of Eutimio Guerra, who had betrayed the rebels' movements to the army. Dispassionately, Che stepped forward and put a bullet into the spy's brain, later detailing the incident in his diary with chilling detachment.

Warmonger
As a Marxist, Che was an enemy of democracy. His advocacy of guerrilla warfare, in his own words calling for "two, three... many Vietnams," led untold numbers of young, idealistic Latin Americans to lose their lives in futile rebellions.



Slowly, the surviving guerrillas found each other and hid out in the Sierra Maestra mountains. Their exact number is disputed but it was less than 25. Over time, with the help of sympathetic locals and other Cubans keen to end Batista's hated regime, the rebels acquired recruits and weapons. Che became masterful at organising hit-and-run attacks against the army, inflicting damage then fading back into the countryside before any counter-attacks. His work impressed Fidel, who gave him command of a second force.

Che organised his men to help locals learn to read and write while offering medical care himself. He was a stern disciplinarian, but as an excellent strategist who invariably led from the front, morale within his group was high. His men were always ready to lay down their lives for their leader and their cause.

After a failed offensive by Batista's army, the guerrillas struck out across the country. Fidel's force headed towards Santiago, Cuba's second city, while Che's group went towards Santa Clara. The battle for Santa Clara proved decisive. Just hours after the city fell to the rebels, Batista fled the country. Che's men marched on Havana and took the capital unopposed. It had taken just over two years for guerrillas numbering little more than 20 at one point to claim the country.

Next, they had to keep it. Che was put in charge of La Cabaña prison, where revolutionary justice was swiftly and ruthlessly administered to Batista's torturers and war criminals, to traitors, and to enemies of the revolution. Defendants were allowed witnesses and lawyers, but there were no juries. Che selected judges and reviewed numerous cases with them, though as chief prosecutor, his decision was final. Hundreds were executed by firing squad on his order. The lack of firmness he'd witnessed first-hand in Guatemala was not going to be repeated.

He was equally uncompromising in his private life. When Hilda arrived in Cuba with their three-year-old daughter, Che bluntly informed her that he had fallen in love with Aleida March, who had fought alongside him. Che and Hilda divorced quickly. He married Aleida, and had four more children with her.

However, neither they nor Cuba, where he was granted citizenship, could fully capture his heart. Che's over-riding commitment, now that he had successfully fought one, was to revolution.

After holding various government posts over several years, Che wrote a "farewell letter" that Fidel revealed to the Cuban people in October 1965. In it, Che declared his intention to leave the country to fight for the revolutionary cause abroad. By that time, he was already in Africa, working with elite Cuban fighters training Marxist rebels in the Congo.

It was thought that the guerrilla tactics used successfully in Cuba could be repeated to bring about a communist state in central Africa. However, Che found the rebels to be poorly disciplined and badly led. They also encountered fierce opposition from South African mercenaries flown in to aid the Congo National Army. Suffering from dysentery and, inevitably, acute asthma attacks, Che was forced to abandon the mission.

To recover, he lived incognito in Dar es Salaam and Prague. He made a final secret visit to Cuba to see his family and Fidel, then, shaving off his beard and most of his hair in order to pose as an unremarkable Uruguayan businessman, he flew to Bolivia.

In the rural south east of the country, he met up with a group of about 50 guerrillas. They had some initial success in skirmishes with what was thought to be a poorly trained and equipped Bolivian army. Yet the local population steadfastly refused to rise up and join them in revolution, and their opponents were in fact being aided by the CIA and US Special Forces. Quickly picked off by their opponents, the guerrilla numbers dwindled while the net around them tightened.

In October 1967, with morale low and his men fatigued, Che's group were near the village of La Higuera. The Bolivian Army trapped them in a ravine, and the firefight that led to Che's capture began. It was his final brush with death.

CHE'S FINAL HOURS
7, 8, 9 OCTOBER 1967

The Bolivia campaign has gone badly. The peasants refuse to rise up. Che has 16 men left...

Exhausted, hungry and in some cases sick, the ragtag gang of guerrillas led by Che are in a steep, jungle-clad ravine near a small village, La Higuera.

They encounter a peasant woman herding goats. They ask if she has seen soldiers but get no clear answer. They give her some money, hoping she won't reveal their position.

A company of Bolivian army rangers receive information that there are guerrillas nearby. They sweep into the area, taking up positions on both sides of the ravine.

The rangers are spotted. Che divides his men into three, the likelihood being that they'll have to shoot their way out. They hold their fire and positions for several tense hours.

Just after 1pm some guerrillas are detected. A fierce firefight begins. Che's M-2 carbine rifle is hit in the barrel, rendering it useless. His pistol is empty.

Che is shot in the leg. As rangers close in he reportedly yells: "Don't shoot! I am Che Guevara. I am worth more to you alive than dead!"

The captured Che, unable to walk, is carried away from the area to a one-room schoolhouse at La Higuera. Bound hand and foot, he is held overnight.

Félix Rodríguez, a CIA operative working with the Bolivians, arrives early next morning. He is startled by Che's bedraggled appearance. They talk and Rodríguez has a photo taken with him.

Despite the United States hoping to keep Che alive, the Bolivian government orders his execution. Rodríguez informs Che of his fate. Sergeant Terán volunteers for the task. Che is killed.

His hands are amputated and chemically preserved for identification purposes. He is buried with other guerrillas in a mass grave. Years later it is discovered. Che's remains are now in Cuba.

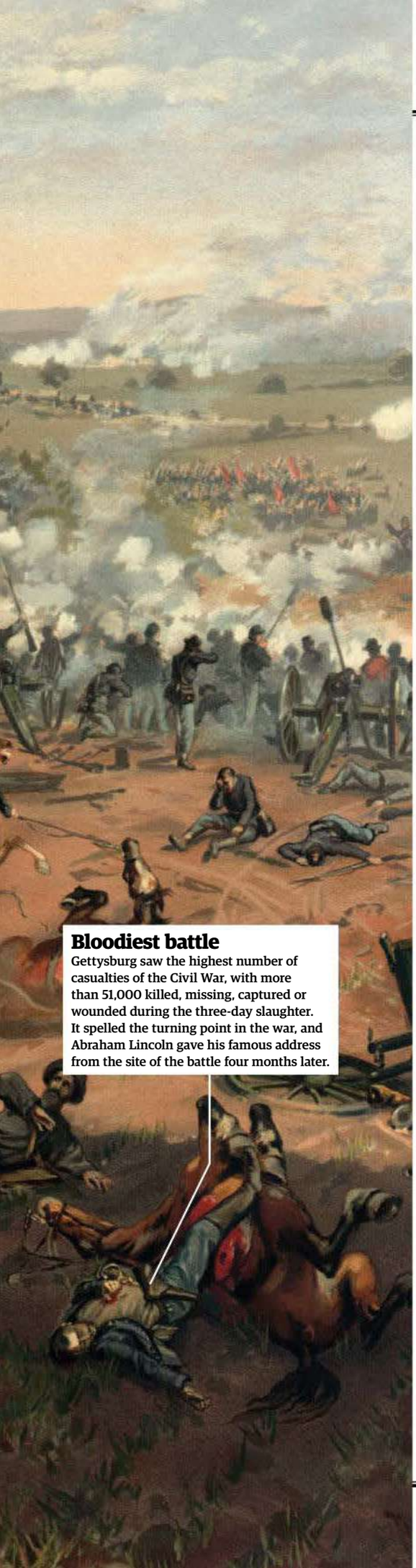
On 12 October 1967, Che Guevara's body is displayed in a hospital in Bolivia

© Alamy

Heat of the day
All three days of the battle were fought in incredibly hot weather, during the height of the Pennsylvanian summer. This meant both sides were suffering and struggling to maintain composure in these difficult conditions, making water as precious as ammo to many soldiers.

Desperate defence
On more than one occasion during the battle, the Union line was tested to its limits. With Confederate attacks springing up at various points in great numbers, General Meade was forced to rapidly reorganise battalions across the field.

Absent cavalry
Though they engaged on the first day of the battle, much of the cavalry on either side was occupied away from Gettysburg. This changed the dynamic of the battle significantly, as General Lee's scout reports on the Union movements were proven incorrect, which affected his decisions.



Bloodiest battle
Gettysburg saw the highest number of casualties of the Civil War, with more than 51,000 killed, missing, captured or wounded during the three-day slaughter. It spelled the turning point in the war, and Abraham Lincoln gave his famous address from the site of the battle four months later.

GREATEST BATTLES

GETTYSBURG

PENNSYLVANIA, USA 1-3 JULY 1863

At noon on 2 July 1863, the heat of the summer day had already sapped the energy from every man, Union or Confederate, unable to find a piece of shade. Nearby, the deserted town of Gettysburg lay eerily quiet after the desperate fighting of the previous day, as the Union men had beat a hasty retreat through its streets and into the hills. General George Meade had steadied his men, forming up a tight defence that he now hoped would be enough to block his enemy's path to Washington DC, the political heart of the United States. As shots were heard breaking out towards the Union's left flank, he realised that the attack had begun, but couldn't have any idea just how bloody the day would prove to be.

During the previous month, Robert E Lee, the Confederate's finest commander and arguably the greatest general of the American Civil War, had taken his Army of Northern Virginia, more than 72,000 men, to the north. Penetrating deep into Union territory, he predicted, would boost support for those calling for a peace deal to be brokered between the North and the South. A victory in this invasion so deep into the North would also put great pressure on President Lincoln, and could even allow Lee to march on Washington DC itself.

The relatively small town of Gettysburg, southern Pennsylvania, was only significant in that it saw the convergence of several key roads leading to the south, the north and elsewhere, from where Lee saw an opportunity to spread his army. Major General Joseph Hooker, commanding the Army of the Potomac, had shadowed Lee in his march north, following the rebel army to engage and destroy it. Three days before the battle, however, he was relieved of his command and General Meade was put in his place. The new general's sudden rise through the ranks earned him widespread mistrust among his officers, who questioned his ability to lead them effectively.

The two armies met at Gettysburg on 1 July, with troops engaging at first in light skirmishes that soon escalated into a pitched battle, as limited Union regiments defended their line against advancing Confederates. With General Meade not yet on the field, Union officers took the initiative to control the defence of Gettysburg, but disaster struck when the senior officer, Major General John F Reynolds, was struck down by a sharpshooter's bullet.

Though they defended bravely, and delayed Lee's troops as much as they could, the Union soldiers were forced to run for their lives through Gettysburg's streets and up into the hills to the south, where a defensive line of artillery had been established. As more reinforcements arrived during the late afternoon and during the night, the position on the high ground was fortified further and the Union generals could only wait to see what General Lee would do the next day.

With Gettysburg surrounded and taken on the first day, albeit with the lives of more men than he would have cared to give, General Lee was now as confident as he usually was of victory. He planned to outflank the Union position, killing its superior position on the high ground and forcing Meade to retreat from the field. The next two days would decide the fate of the United States, and would cost the lives of thousands of Americans.

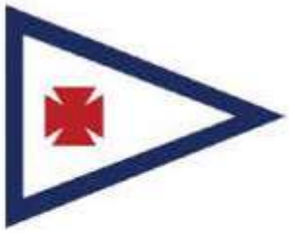
Union Army of the Potomac

TROOPS 95,000

GENERAL GEORGE GORDON MEADE

LEADER

Meade was appointed general of the army just days before the battle.
Strengths Was able to make full use of his subordinates' skills.
Weakness Without the full backing of his troops, he failed to control many of his officers.



5TH CORPS

KEY UNIT

The stalwart defenders of Little Round Top.
Strengths Drawn mainly from Lincoln's second call for volunteers, these will die for the Union cause.
Weakness Under-supplied and with stretched lines, they faced greater difficulties than just the enemy.

SPRINGFIELD MODEL 1861

KEY WEAPON

The most commonly used rifled musket of the Civil War.
Strengths Long range, along with fairly good accuracy.
Weakness A slight arcing in the bullet's trajectory proved problematic when used by novices.

01 Forming the defensive line

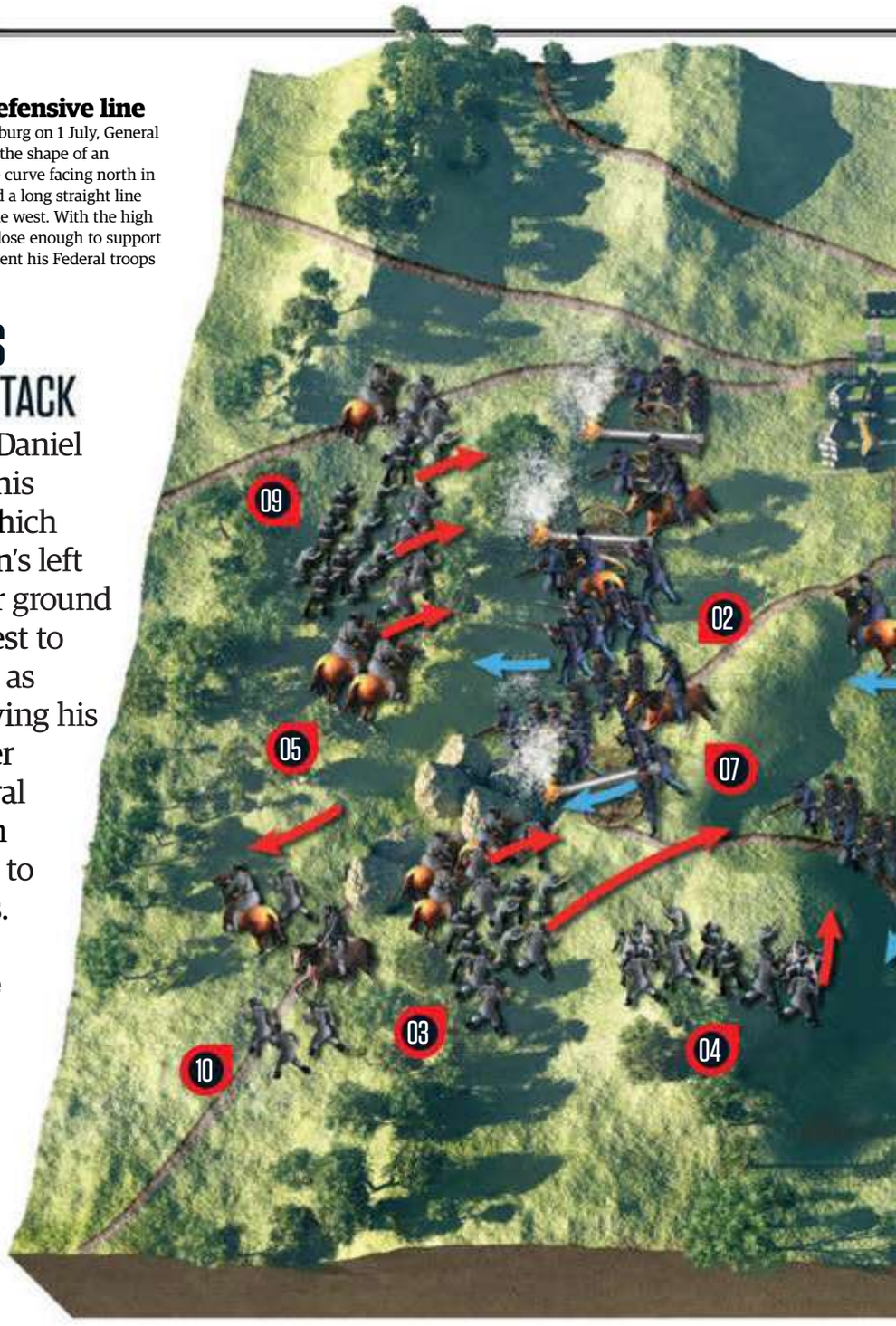
After the retreat from Gettysburg on 1 July, General Meade forms his troops into the shape of an inverted fish hook – with the curve facing north in the direction of the town and a long straight line facing the Confederates to the west. With the high ground and with each unit close enough to support one another, Meade is confident his Federal troops can hold off any attacks.

02 SICKLES MOVES TO ATTACK

Major General Daniel Sickles moves his Third Corps, which holds the Union's left flank, to higher ground towards the west to an area known as Devil's Den, giving his artillery a better position. General Meade sends in his Fifth Corps to support Sickles.

03 Lee orders the first attack

With the bulk of his forces along Seminary Ridge, parallel to the Union's fish hook, General Lee orders Lieutenant General Longstreet to attack the enemy's left flank, General Ambrose Hill is to attack the centre, while General Richard Ewell threatens the enemy's right. Lee plans for his forces to roll up on the Union left, flanking them entirely.

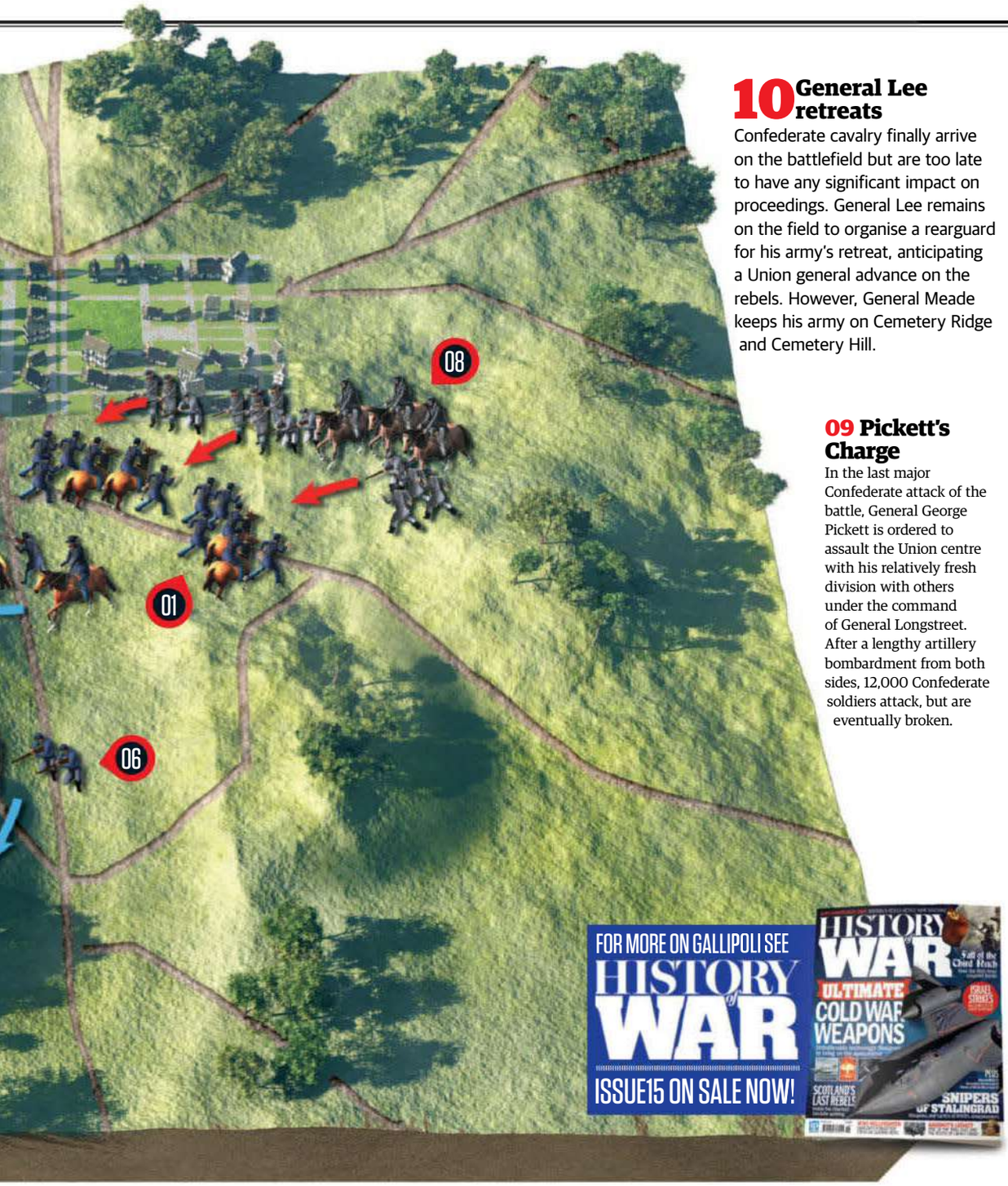


04 Longstreet advances

Moving towards the Union's left flank, Longstreet's men encounter the Union Third Corps at the Devil's Den, a deadly position perfect for sharpshooting. Texas and Alabama regiments move towards Little Round Top to flank the Den.

05 BITTER FIGHTING IN THE DEN

The Devil's Den changes hands several times, with neither side able to hold it for long before being forced to retreat. About 1,800 casualties result from the fighting here. Further to the right of the Confederate attack, Alabama and Texas regiments begin assaulting Little Round Top, but encounter elements of the Fifth Corps General Meade has sent to support Sickles.



10 General Lee retreats

Confederate cavalry finally arrive on the battlefield but are too late to have any significant impact on proceedings. General Lee remains on the field to organise a rearguard for his army's retreat, anticipating a Union general advance on the rebels. However, General Meade keeps his army on Cemetery Ridge and Cemetery Hill.

09 Pickett's Charge

In the last major Confederate attack of the battle, General George Pickett is ordered to assault the Union centre with his relatively fresh division with others under the command of General Longstreet. After a lengthy artillery bombardment from both sides, 12,000 Confederate soldiers attack, but are eventually broken.

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06 BATTLE FOR LITTLE ROUND TOP

With ammunition running low and having taken heavy casualties, Colonel Joshua Chamberlain orders his men to fix bayonets and charge the Confederate troops. The attack routs the attacking rebels.

07 The end of the second day

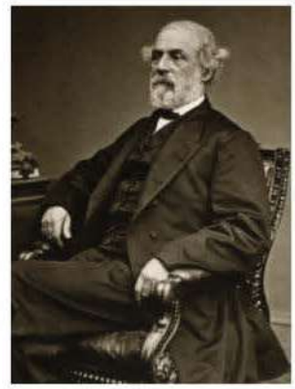
Sickles's Third Corps is pressed hard by the Confederate attacks, with the Wheatfield and Devil's Den finally falling into enemy hands. Sickles is wounded by a cannonball to the leg as his men retreat to Cemetery Ridge, where they hold. A huge gap in the Union centre emerges after the Third Corps retreats, so the line is hastily reorganised to prevent the army being split in two.

08 The armies regroup

As night falls on 2 July, there are more than 14,000 casualties of the battlefield. The Union now holds a defensive line along Cemetery Ridge, Cemetery Hill and south to Little Round Top. In the evening, Confederate attacks on the right Union flank are barely repulsed, as the defences are under-strength from supporting Sickles' position in the day. The next day, more attacks on Culp's Hill and around Spangler's Spring on the Union right flank are repulsed.

Confederate Army of Northern Virginia

TROOPS 72,000



GENERAL ROBERT E LEE

LEADER

One of the finest leaders of the Civil War and a seasoned soldier.
Strengths Substantially experienced in battle.
Weakness Lacked a thorough reconnaissance of the battlefield.

CONFEDERATE SHARPSHOOTERS

KEY UNIT

The elite marksmen of the Civil War.
Strengths Precise shooting could take out enemy officers with ease.
Weakness Didn't have the numbers of rank-and-file troops.

WHITWORTH RIFLE

KEY WEAPON

Arguably the world's first sniper rifle, manufactured in Britain.
Strengths Incredibly long range, could hit targets from up to one mile away.
Weakness Far less effective in the hands of a raw recruit.

© Nicolle Fuller

Secrets of the Oracle

Written by Frances White

The oracles of Delphi have been shrouded in mystery for millennia, but now scientists believe they have an explanation

Ancient Greece was a world dominated by men. Men filled the highest positions in society, men fought on the battlefield and men ruled the mightiest empires. However, all these men, from the lowliest peasant to the emperor himself, sought the council and advice of one person – and that person was a woman.

The city of Delphi had long traditions of being the centre of the world; it was said that Zeus himself named it the navel of Gaia. According to legend, a huge serpent, named Python, guarded the spot before it was slain by the infant god Apollo. When Apollo's arrows pierced the serpent, its body fell into a fissure and great fumes arose from the crevice as its carcass rotted. All those who stood over the gaping fissure fell into sudden, often violent, trances. In this state, it was believed that Apollo would possess the person and fill them with divine presence.

These peculiar occurrences attracted Apollo-worshipping settlers during the Mycenaean era, and slowly but surely the primitive sanctuary grew into a shrine, and then, by 7th century BCE, a temple. It would come to house a single person, chosen to serve as the bridge between this world and the next. Named after the great serpent, this chosen seer was named the Pythia – the oracle.

Communication with a god was no small matter, and not just anyone could be allowed or trusted to serve this venerated position. It was decided that a pure, chaste and honest young virgin would be the most appropriate vessel for such a divine role. However, there was one drawback – beautiful young virgins were prone to attracting negative attention from the men who sought their council, which resulted in oracles being raped and violated. Older women of at least 50 began to fill the position, and as a reminder of what used to be, they would dress in the virginal garments of old.

These older women were often chosen from the priestesses of Delphi temple, but could also be any respected native of Delphi. Educated noble women were prized, but even peasants could fill the position.

Those Pythia who were previously married were required to relinquish all family responsibility and even their individual identities. To be an oracle was to take up an ancient and vitally important role – one that transcended the self, and entered into legend. Pythia were so important to the Greek Empire that it was essential that they were a blank slate, so children, husbands and any links to previous life had to be severed in favour of Apollo and divinity.

The reason for the growing importance of the oracles was simple – the Pythia provided answers. For an ambitious and religious civilisation, this very visual and vocal link to the gods was treated with the utmost respect.

For the nine warmest months of each year, on the seventh day of each month the Pythia would accept questions from all members of Greek society. This was to correspond with the belief that Apollo deserted the temple during the winter months.

After being 'purified' by fasting, drinking holy water and bathing in the sacred Castalian Spring, the Pythia would assume her

Ask the Oracle

If you have a problem or simply wish to know what the future holds – the oracle has the answer

I'm a Spartan lawmaker and recently outside influence has been threatening our proud nation. Are these other countries a bad influence or am I being an old stick in the mud?
Lycurgus, Sparta
Love of money and nothing else will ruin Sparta.

I know it's silly but I'm absolutely obsessed with my own death! Do you have any idea what I can do to prevent my early demise?
Lysander, Sparta
Beware the serpent, earthborn, in craftiness coming behind thee.

I've recently captured my own island. I have to come up with some laws but I'm not sure what sort of ruler I should be. Any advice?
Solon, Athens
Seat yourself now amid ships, for you are the pilot of Athens. Grasp the helm fast in your hands; you have many allies in your city.

An old foe has reared his ugly head and wants to face my soldiers in battle. The only problem is that we are vastly outnumbered. Should I face him?
Leonidas, Sparta
The strength of bulls or lions cannot stop the foe. No, he will not leave off, until he tears the city or the king limb from limb.

Although I'm already a king, I feel unfulfilled with my life. I want to do something really impressive. What should I do to make my name?
Philip, Macedon
With silver spears you may conquer the world.

My friend is a really important person, but he's been making some really questionable decisions lately. Should I stick by him?
Cicero, Arpino
Make your own nature, not the advice of others, your guide in this life.

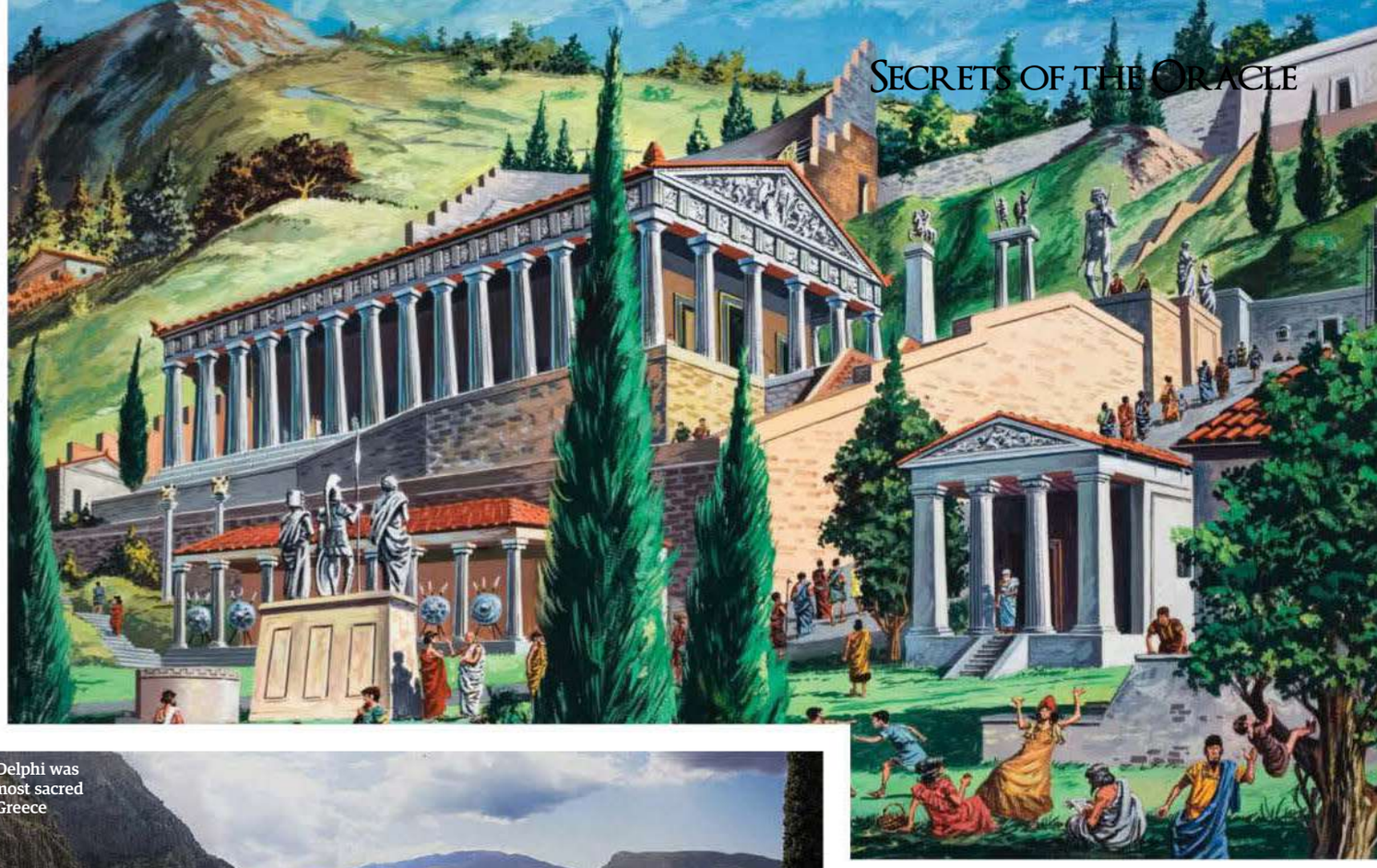
My enemy will not leave me alone! I know I can't fight him, but is there a way I can at least defend myself from his attacks?
Themistocles, Athens
A wall of wood alone shall be uncaptured, a boon to you and your children.

My friend, Socrates, is such a know-it-all. He literally has an answer for everything. Please settle a dispute for us: is there anyone who is smarter than him?
Chaerephon, Athens
No human is wiser.

My dad was a very famous soldier and everyone expects me to follow in his footsteps. Now war has broken out, I feel pressured to join the army. But I am not sure. Should I sign up?
Gaios, Delphi
You will go, return not die in the war.

I've sacrificed everything, even family members, for power. But it's still not enough. What can I do to satisfy my greed?
Nero, Antium
Your presence here outrages the god that you seek. Go back, matricide! The number 73 marks the hour of your downfall!

The first oracles were young virgins. They were later replaced with women aged over 50



The site of Delphi was one of the most sacred in Ancient Greece

The oracles' answers would often be translated by temple priests

position upon a tripod seat, clasping laurel reeds in one hand and a dish of spring water in the other. Positioned above the gaping fissure, the vapours of the ancient vanquished serpent would wash over her and she would enter the realm of the divine.

People flocked from far and wide to speak to the woman who could communicate with the gods. Known as consultants, many of those who wished to ask the oracle a question would travel for days or even weeks to reach Delphi. Once they arrived they underwent an intense grilling from the priests, who would determine the genuine cases and instruct them the correct way to frame their questions. Those who were approved then had to undergo a variety of traditions, such as carrying laurel wreaths to the temple. It was also encouraged for consultants to provide a monetary donation as well as an animal to be sacrificed. Once the animal had been sacrificed, its guts would be studied. If the signs were seen as unfavourable, the consultant could be sent home. Finally, the consultant was allowed to approach the Pythia and ask his question. In some accounts, it seems the oracles gave the answers, but others report the Pythia would utter incomprehensible words that the priests would 'translate' into verse. Once he received his answer, the consultant would journey home to act upon the advice of the oracle.

This was the tricky part. The oracle received a multitude of visitors in the nine days she was available, from farmers desperate to know the outcome of the harvest to emperors asking if they should wage war on their enemies, and her answers were not always clear. Responses, or their translations by the temple priests, often seemed deliberately phrased so that, no matter the outcome, the oracle would always be right. It was essential for the consultant to carefully consider her words, or else risk a bad harvest, or even the defeat of an entire army. When Croesus, the king of Lydia, asked the oracle if he should attack Persia, he received the response: "If you cross the river, a great empire will be destroyed." He viewed this as a good omen and went ahead with the invasion. Unfortunately, the great empire that was destroyed was his own. In this way, the oracle, just like the gods, was infallible, and her divine reputation grew. To question the oracle was to question the gods – and that was unthinkable.

Soon, no major decision was made before consulting the oracle of Delphi. It wasn't just Greek people, but also foreign dignitaries, leaders and kings who travelled to Delphi for a chance to ask the oracle a question. Those who could afford it would pay great sums of money for a fast pass through the long lines of pilgrims and commoners. Using these donations, the temple grew in size and prominence. Quickly, Delphi seemed to be fulfilling its own prophecy of being the centre of the world, and attracted visitors for the Pythian Games, a precursor of the Olympic Games. On the influence of the oracle's statements, Delphi became a powerful and prosperous city-state. The oracle sat at the centre of not just the city of Delphi, but the great Greek empire itself. No important decision was made without her consultation, and so, for nearly a thousand years, the position of perhaps the greatest political and social influence in the ancient world was occupied by a woman.

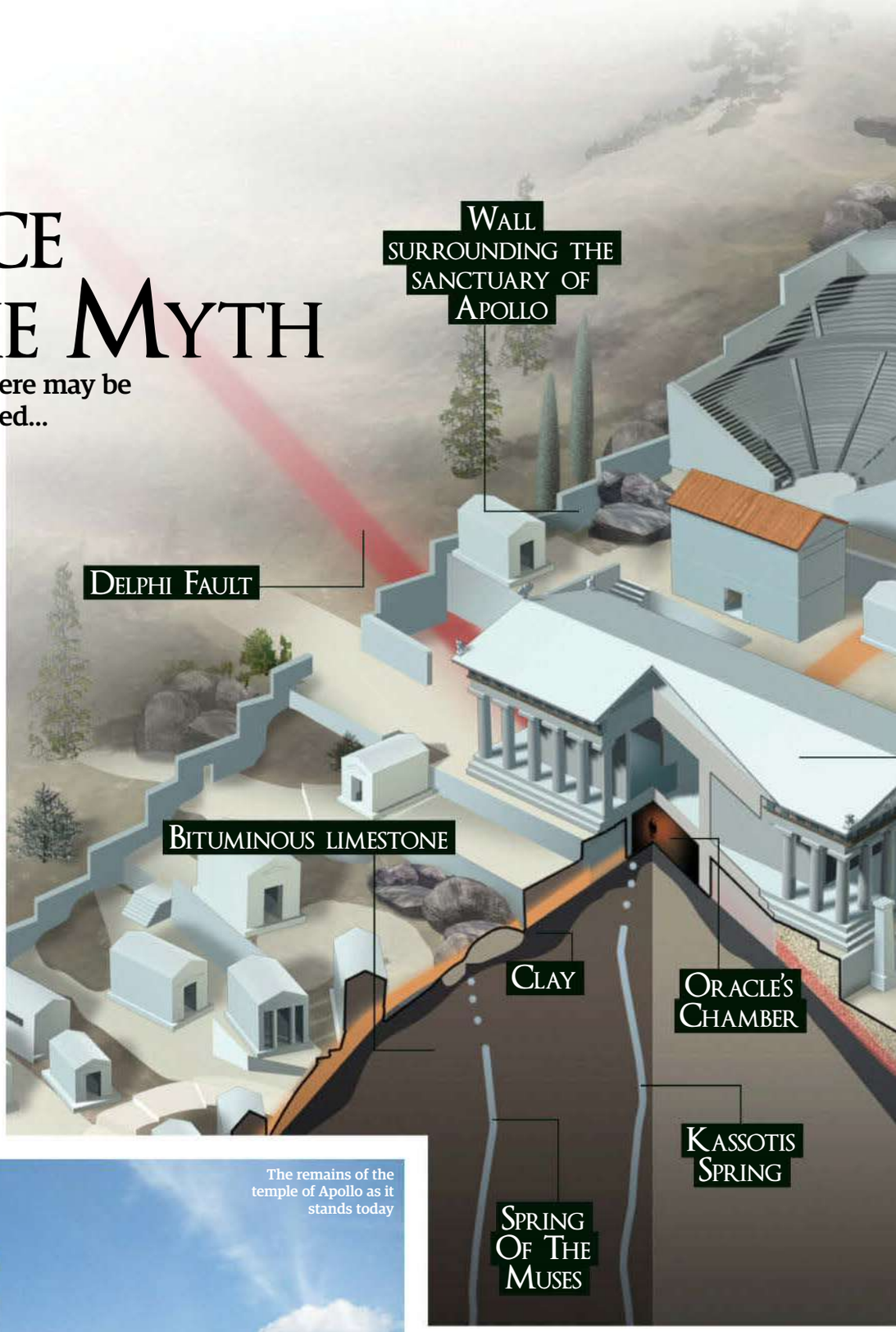
The Science Behind The Myth

Excavations have revealed that there may be more to the story than first believed...

Ever since the emergence of science in society, a scientific explanation for the Pythia's visionary trances has been sought. One of the most valuable accounts of the oracle's trances comes from Plutarch, who served as a priest at the temple in Delphi. He described how sweet-smelling gases arising from the fissure would cause the priestesses to fall into a strange trance. It seemed there was some truth to Plutarch's account, as when archeologists studied the temple ruins they discovered a few peculiar features.

The inner sanctum where the Pythia sat, for example, was two to four metres below the level of the surrounding floor, and there was also a nearby drain for spring water. This structure was unique when compared to any other Ancient Greek temple. All of this proved one thing – that there was definitely something strange going on in the temple of Apollo.

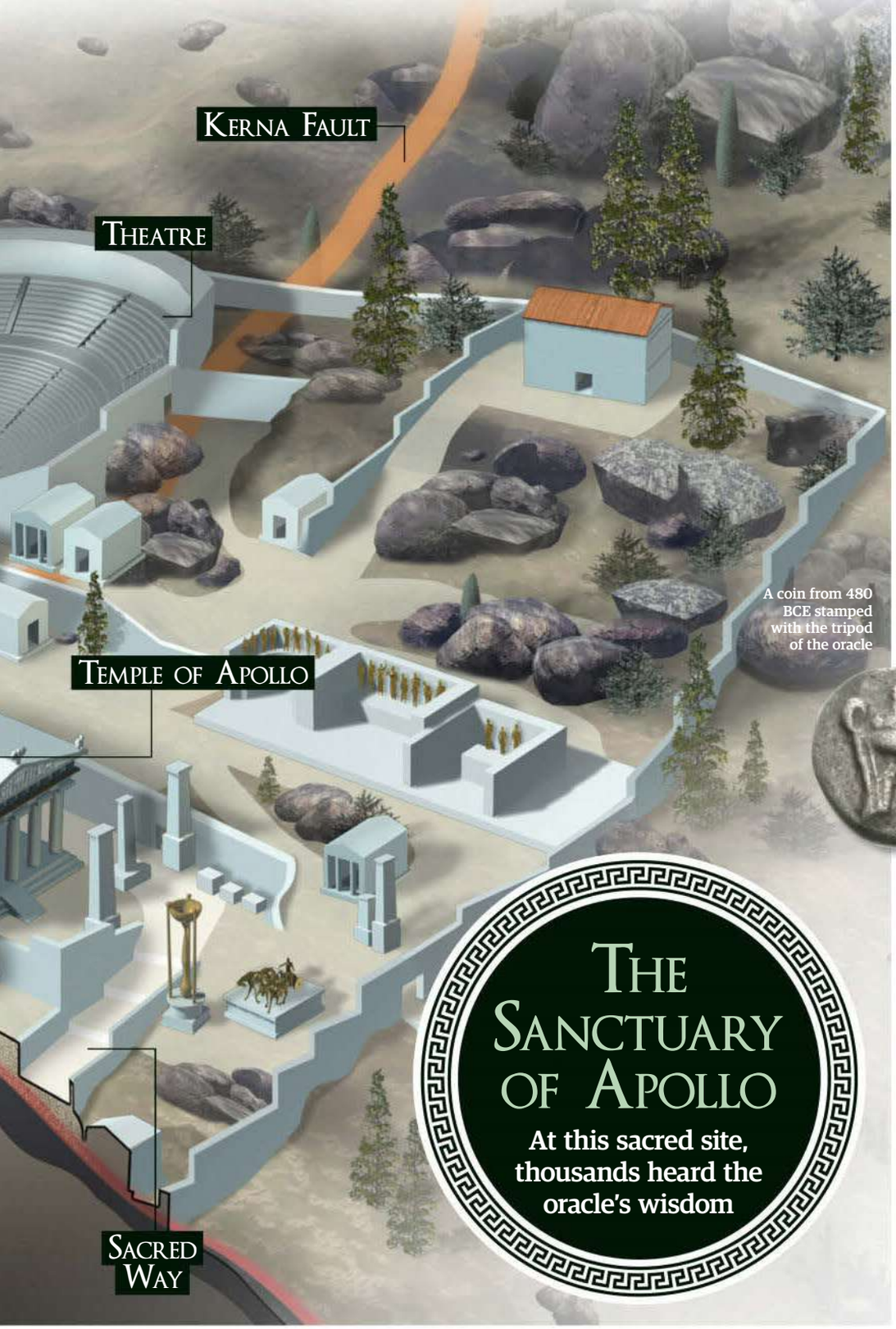
Curious about the existence of the fissure mentioned in Plutarch's accounts, in 1892, French archeologists set about excavating the ruins of the temple with the goal of discovering an ancient cave or hole in the ground. However, surprisingly, nothing of the sort was found. By 1904, it was declared that Plutarch's temple fumes were simply an ancient myth, and never really existed. In 1948, the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* read that: "Excavation has rendered improbable the post-



The remains of the temple of Apollo as it stands today

Alternative Theories

The oracles claimed their trances came from Apollo, scientists blame gases, but these aren't the only explanations for the peculiar incidents



The Sanctuary of Apollo

At this sacred site, thousands heard the oracle's wisdom

Worship of the oracle came to an end in 390 AD

A coin from 480 BCE stamped with the tripod of the oracle

classical theory of a chasm with mephitic vapours."

That was believed to be true until the late 1980s, when a new team of curious scientists decided to investigate the ruins for themselves. The rocks they discovered beneath the temple were oily bituminous limestone and were fractured by two faults that crossed beneath the temple. This had to be more than a coincidence. The scientists theorised that tectonic movements and ancient earthquakes caused friction along the faults. Combined with the spring water that ran beneath the temple, methane, ethylene and ethane gas would rise through the faults to the centre and directly into the temple. The low room with its limited ventilation and lack of oxygen would help amplify the effect of the gasses and induce the trance-like symptoms experienced by the oracles.

It was the ethylene gas especially that drew a lot of interest. Ethylene is a sweet-smelling gas, just like Plutarch had reported, and in small doses is said to have the ability to cause trances and frenzied states. Tests conducted with ethylene reported that a dosage higher than 20 per cent could cause unconsciousness; however, less than that and the patient was able to sit up and answer questions, though their voice was altered. There were also instances of fits, thrashing, loss of memory and altered speech patterns, all of which correspond with Plutarch's accounts of the oracles. However, as is always the case with speculative science, this theory is not universally agreed upon, and other scientists argue that other gases such as carbon dioxide and methane are responsible for the hallucinogenic states. Either way, it seems the answer to the question of the mysterious Delphi oracles lies in the peculiar structure of the temple and unique geography of the site, which all aligned to produce something truly remarkable.

Snake Venom

It is possible that the trances were brought upon by snake venom, particularly that of the cobra or krait snake. After becoming immunised against the venom, a bite from a snake can produce hallucinogenic symptoms that affect the person's emotional and mental state.

Laurel Leaves

Laurel leaves were always carried by the oracles, and they were also reported to chew on them because of their link with Apollo. It has been hypothesised that it was the leaves that brought on the oracle's trances, but as they are not hallucinogenic, this is unlikely.

Political Puppets

One of the most popular theories explaining the state of the oracles is that they were simply faking their trances. Because of the power that their prophecies could hold, it's theorised that the priests or the women themselves manipulated this power as they saw fit.

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What if...
The Berlin Wall never fell?

GERMANY, 1949-2000

Written by Calum Waddell

FRED TAYLOR

Fred Taylor was born in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England. In 1967 he was awarded a history scholarship to Oxford University, where he read History and Modern Languages (German). After graduating, he pursued postgraduate studies at the University of Sussex, where he was awarded a Volkswagen Studentship and travelled widely in East and West Germany, researching a thesis on the German far-right before 1918. He has since worked as a publisher, a translator of fiction and non-fiction, a novelist and a scriptwriter. He edited and translated *The Goebbels Diaries 1939-1941* and his books include *The Berlin Wall: 13 August 1961-9 November 1989* and *Exorcising Hitler*, about the destruction and resurgence of post-war Germany.

What if the Berlin Wall had never collapsed?
Basically you would have had something not dissimilar to North Korea. The only way it would have worked is through massive repression. I think for the wall not to have fallen, it would have, first of all, meant that we would have experienced a different Eastern Bloc than the one we had in the 1980s. They would have had to stop the reforms, Gorbachev particularly, and if that had taken place it would mean that the Cold War would have continued.

Can you envision a scenario where the Berlin Wall is still standing and East Germany, much like North Korea, still exists as a separate country?
It is very difficult to imagine this but, theoretically, I suppose they could have cracked down on dissent. There are a few reasons behind the fall of the Berlin Wall. The first, and most simple, is that the East German economy simply did not work. They had very few natural resources and terrible problems with inefficiency. Then, moving into the 1970s and 1980s, the Russians had stopped selling the East Germans cheap oil. This caused more economic problems. There are pictures of East German shops from the 1960s and 1970s, and then the 1980s; they tried to make it look as if everything was wonderful, but there was not much to buy except a few turnips. Another thing that needs to be established is that by the 1970s they were also being loaned a lot of money from the West Germans, which they became very dependent on. Then, of course, there is the Helsinki Accords, which the East cynically signed up to – but they could not really offer the freedoms that they had just promised. Nevertheless, they wanted the kudos of seeming forward thinking and freedom loving, albeit without paying any of the costs for that. Inevitably, though, over time, there were some brave people in East Germany who demanded the freedoms of the Helsinki Accords and, unless the authorities started to crack down on them, returning them to a Stalinist regime, it is difficult to see how the communists could have stayed in power.

So let us imagine they did go down the route of announcing a state of emergency, offering the Stasi complete control over law and order and thousands of people were imprisoned or murdered. We are back to the idea of East Germany as a contemporary North Korea. How would the wall have evolved?
Well it is interesting because the East Germans were actually quite good at basic electronics. They were skilled at putting together cheaper versions of Western electronics – and they had a plan to build a high-tech Berlin Wall. Moving into the 1990s and the millennium, it would have all kinds of alarms so that you wouldn't need armed guards. You would basically have an electronic surveillance system. However, while that was the goal, I don't think they had the financial or logistical ability to achieve that.

If this high-tech version of the Berlin Wall had come into practice, how much longer can you envision East Germany hanging on for?
No more than a few years after 1989. The huge sums they would need to spend in order to keep their new high-tech wall going would, I think, lead to the end in about 1995.

How would West Germany have benefited, if at all, from the continuation of East Germany?
In some ways it might have benefited West Germany to keep the East in business, because it would result in more cheap labour. East Germany, from the 1960s onwards, was a place

FREEDOM

where Western manufacturers had their work done cheap. In West Germany, back when I lived there, you could get 24-hour film development done – straight from your camera – back in the days when you delivered it to a chemist. But they would actually ship it over the border to East Germany and ship it back again. That was true of textiles and other businesses.

So if I can imagine an East Germany, with this high-tech Berlin Wall still intact, I think it would be one that had basically become an economic colony of West Germany. It would have re-established a Stalinist regime to keep everybody quiet. The selling of political prisoners to the West was also an enormously profitable trade for the East, so that would probably have continued. In fact, there were rumours that they were arresting people just so they could make some income from selling them back.

At the Brandenburg Gate on 12 June 1987, President Ronald Reagan made his famous speech asking Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down this wall"

"There was an Eastern Bloc joke – we pretend to work, they pretend to pay us"

Let's say the Berlin Wall falls, as it did in 1989, but the majority of East Germans want to remain part of a separate state. Is this imaginable?

A few idealists at the time did actually want to try a third way – a liberal socialist state of sorts. But, honestly, the only reason that East Germany could have, and perhaps should have, survived for a few more years was for the economy. When unification did happen, it was a bit of an economic car crash. All of these totally uncompetitive East German businesses were faced with the full force of competition from the West, as well as these carpet-bagging yuppies that went straight into East Berlin, in particular, and looked for profit. So I think a few years of adjustment, with some economic advantages and privileges and a loose political confederation, before total reunification, would have been a softer landing for most people. It was pretty bad for a lot of East Germans when the wall came down. East Germany was horribly uncompetitive. But the West Germans were already bailing them out before the border fell, and I suppose when you are paying somebody else's bills you demand power over them. So reunification, in light of that, had to come from the most practical economic solution. But had there been some way to have a two-tier system, so that the East could adjust to the new economics, I think it would certainly have helped.

In East Germany there was no unemployment, free health and childcare and a supportive welfare state – but no freedom of speech and a wealth of political prisoners. Now, in a reunified Germany, there is plenty of homelessness and poverty but, of course, you can take to the streets in protest. So what was really the best outcome for so-called 'freedom', in retrospect?

That's the very question we are all asking ourselves, isn't it? What is freedom? What is democracy? And does one type of freedom potentially undermine and even destroy the freedom of a different kind of person? Unemployment was a criminal offence in East Germany, as it was in Russia at the time, but the problem is they built up this fake economy to keep people working. That economy was running up huge deficits and

How would it be different?

Real timeline

1945

Yalta Conference
Shortly before the Red Army reaches Berlin, Winston Churchill, a critically ill Franklin D Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin agree that after World War II, Germany will split into four separate 'occupation zones' under America, Britain, France and Russia.
4-11 February 1945

West German Republic
In February 1948, the United States, Britain and France meet in London, where they agree to unite each of the Western occupation zones into a greater German Republic. The Soviets, meanwhile, oversee a separate East German state.
February 1948

East German Constitution
The German Democratic Republic (better known as East Germany) is officially formed, complete with its own constitution. East Germany offers the right to emigrate and to trade union protection, however, inevitably, as with all Soviet-aligned nations, a heavy-handed one-party rule would soon surface. Amendments that will further limit personal freedoms of East Germans would emerge in a 1968 draft.
7 October 1949

The Warsaw Pact
The Cold War gets even chillier when eight Eastern Bloc countries, including East Germany, sign up to The Warsaw Pact – a pledge to defend any nation sympathetic to the Soviet cause from attack. **14 May 1955**

Erection of the Berlin Wall
Perhaps the most famous event of the Cold War, The German Democratic Republic erects a barrier between East and West Berlin. The wall is designed to stop the mass emigration from East to West. **13 August 1961**

Real timeline

Alternative timeline

East German Constitution
Rather than maintaining influence from the Weimer era of the country's politics, the first constitution of the German Democratic Republic explicitly maintains a totalitarian, Stalinist state in which Western influences are banned outright.
7 October 1949

Winston Churchill, Franklin D Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin at the Yalta Conference in February 1945

Germans stand on top of the Berlin Wall in the days before it fell

that is what caused the financial implosion of the Eastern Bloc in the 1980s. There was an Eastern Bloc joke – we pretend to work, they pretend to pay us. So, yes, everybody was working but productivity was low. So this façade of full employment was stirring up trouble for itself. However, we have certainly gone too far the other way now. Being a sentimental old social democrat, I think the 1960s and 1970s were when we found a decent balance that we have since lost. If you don't, to some extent, curb the freedoms of the very wealthy few to help those who have less power and money, you have a society where different kinds of pressures build up.

We have touched a little on the North Korea analogy. Finally, then, can we look at the East-West divide in Germany and really make that comparison?

In reality, I don't think so, because the balance between North and South Korea is different to the relationship that existed between East and West Germany while the wall was up. There was always, aside from during the first few years of the wall being built, a cordial political relationship as well as travel going on between the two German states. Pensioners, for instance, could leave the East for the West if they wanted, and if they did not want to come back, it was not a big deal. They were just a burden on the state anyway. There was a lot of family visiting going on between the two states too and a functioning economic relationship.

The two Korean countries have none of that. If North Korea suddenly collapsed, then 25 million people, some of them starving, would flee to Seoul or to China and look for a job and a handout, which would cause economic devastation for those countries. That is why North Korea manages to hang on – China simply does not want that problem to develop. West Germany was different – reunification was actually the goal there and it was inevitable.

Have your say

Do you agree with our expert's view?

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Killing of Peter Fechter
Perhaps the most notorious execution of anyone trying to flee from East to West shows the world the brutality of the German Democratic Republic. Fechter, aged just 18, is shot in the pelvis and left to bleed to death. **17 August 1962**

The Helsinki Accords
35 countries meet in Finland. An agreement between communist and democratic nations is signed that guarantees numerous human rights and freedoms, but such declarations are later seen as a sham. **July-August 1975**

Reagan's Speech at the Brandenburg Gate
President Reagan gives one of his most iconic speeches in West Berlin, urging Mikhail Gorbachev, leader of the Soviet Union, to "tear down this wall." **12 June 1987**

The Wall Falls
The 'Peaceful Revolution' begins in East Germany during the summer of 1989. The climax comes on a winter's day in 1989 as East Germany, struggling to maintain order, declares the borders to be open for all. **9 November 1989**

The End of East Germany
With no borders to separate the East from the West, the German Democratic Republic is dissolved and a country that has been split apart for 45 years is finally reunified. **3 October 1990**

Suppression of the Peaceful Revolution
25,000 East Germans are sent to prison, and thousands more shot dead, in a Tiananmen Square-style suppression of political protest in the middle of East Berlin. **30 June 1989**

A new high-tech Berlin Wall
"The wall is here to stay," states Egon Krenz, the latest unapologetic leader of East Germany. He reveals plans for a new high-tech Berlin Wall that will have state-of-the-art security. **1 January 1990**

Military First programme
Influenced by North Korea, parliament announces a Military First programme to sustain the financially ailing state. State employment will be increased by mandatory military service for all under-35s. **October 1996**

The last man standing
East Germany remains the lone wolf of Europe and a testament to the lasting effects of the Cold War. The annual visit from Kim Jong-un garners world attention, but little else. **Present day**

The Warsaw Pact
East Germany pressures the Soviets, who would give the Mongolian People's Republic 'observer status', to widen the signatories to include nations in Africa, Latin America and Asia. **14 May 1955**

Erection of the Berlin Wall
East Berlin's notorious Stasi, the country's official state security, forewarn all members of East Germany that anyone found to even be plotting to escape will be imprisoned for a minimum of ten years. **13 August 1961**

Long live Leonid Brezhnev
The hard-line Soviet leader surprises many with his Castro-like ability to stay healthy. He makes it to the end of the 1980s in perfect health and celebrates his 83rd birthday. Gorbachev, who? **19 December 1989**

The USSR crumbles
A belated attempt to sustain the Eastern Bloc comes to nothing and the Soviet Empire is no more. But East Germany refuses to budge and proudly proclaims a new trade partnership with China. **9 November 1994**

Wall for the millennium
The Berlin Wall remains active on 1 January 2000, despite rumours it may be dissolved to celebrate the millennium. Armed guards return as, among power outages, the technology becomes too expensive to sustain. **1 January 2000**

© Ian Hinkley

The Rise Of The Ottoman Empire

From humble beginnings, the Ottomans went on to conquer lands in three continents, forging an empire that lasted for 700 years

Written by Will Lawrence

It was an empire founded on the promise of a dream that visited the Turkish tribal chief Osman as he slept one night outside the home of a holy man. During his slumber, Osman saw a moon rise from the holy man's breast and sink into his own. Then a tree sprouted from his own navel, spreading its branches and encompassing the entire world. The holy man interpreted this night-vision as God giving Osman imperial office. The dream became reality.

In truth, this vision was first communicated in the 15th century, 100 years after Osman's death, but it stands as one of the empire's key founding myths and provided temporal and divine authority for the Ottomans' remarkable success.

For the Ottoman Empire was indeed an almighty achievement. Launched from the plains of the smallest Turkish emirate in western Anatolia, at the height of its power it encompassed a vast domain, stretching from Hungary to the Persian Gulf and from North Africa to the Caucasus, before beginning a slow decline through the 17th century to its final demise in the 1920s.

The Ottomans first made their mark at the turn of the 14th century, when they were just one among many Turkish tribal groups from central Asia vying for prominence in Anatolia, the swathe of land nestled between the Black Sea, the Aegean and the Mediterranean.

This land had once formed part of the Eastern Roman Empire and then, after the founding of Constantinople, the Byzantine Empire. Following the conquest of this great city by the Europeans of the Fourth Crusade during the previous century, however, the Byzantine Empire had diminished, and by 1300 its Asian holdings comprised only a few ports on the Anatolian coast.

The Ottomans' first step towards toppling the Byzantines and establishing a regional authority came under the leadership of Osman, and at the expense of their fellow Turkish tribes in Anatolia. The region flexed its autonomous muscles during the 1291 succession dispute among their Mongol overlords in Persia. But, as the other Turkish tribes gradually gave up the fight, Osman continued fighting and by 1299, his Ottomans were besieging the city of Nicaea. The Ottomans' great period of conquest was about to begin.

In 1302, the Byzantine emperor Andronicus II, alarmed at Osman's growing influence and his perennial raiding of the Byzantine borderlands, mustered his army to put the Turkish tribesmen in their place. The Byzantine force met the Ottomans not far from Constantinople, on the southern shore of the Sea of Marmara, where they were ambushed and routed from the field.

This was the Ottomans' first great victory over the Byzantines and greatly enhanced Osman's reputation, as did his follow-up campaign, which severed communications between the cities of Brusa and Nicaea. Thousands of immigrant Turkish households rallied to his banner. As Osman's power grew, Andronicus sought alliances, though these came to nought, and Ottoman raiding continued until Osman's death around 1323/24. Leadership passed to Osman's son, Orhan, who went on to capture Brusa, establishing the first Ottoman capital. This was in 1326, a date that is often cited as the birth of the empire itself.

The early Ottoman leaders

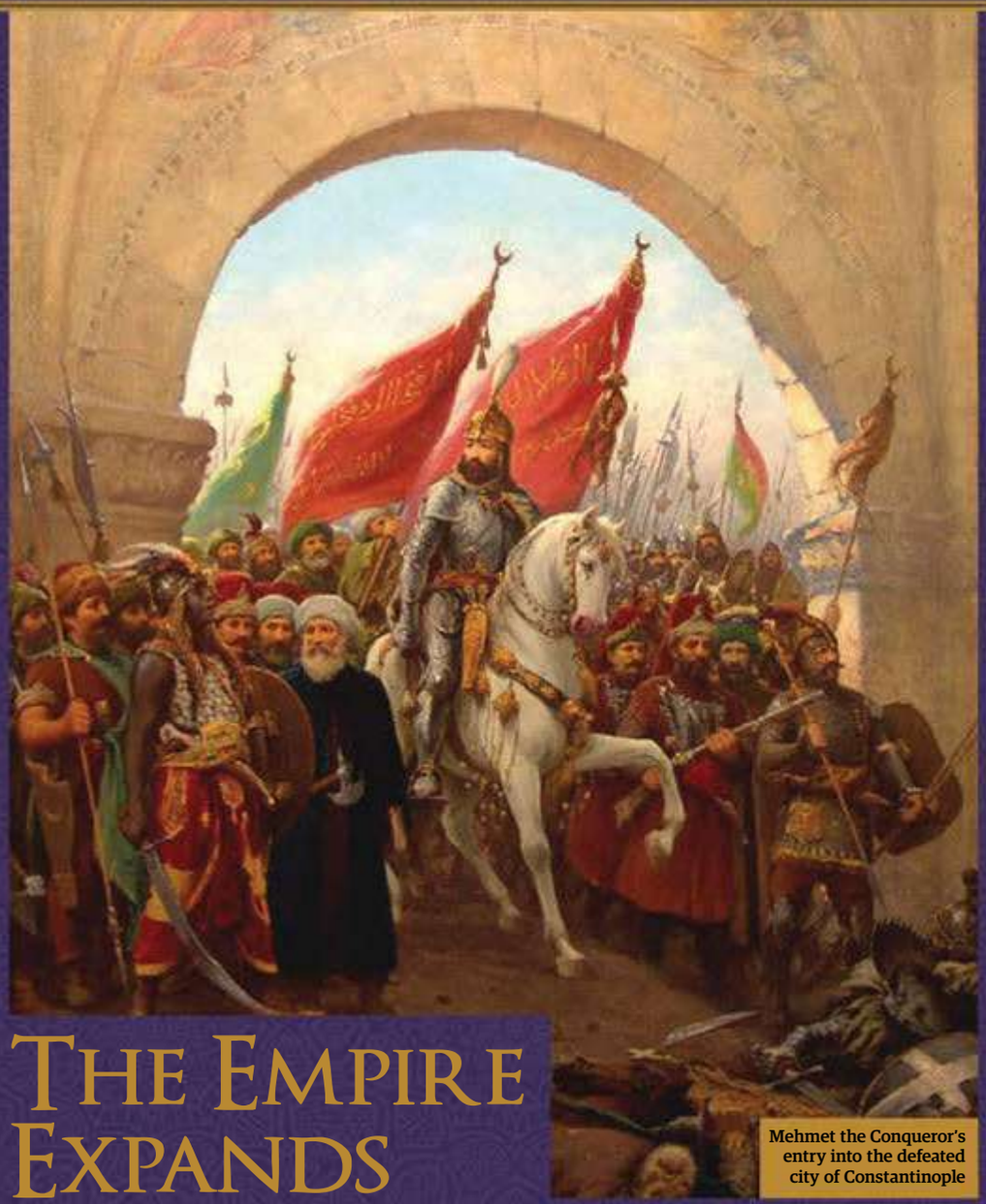
Osman I: The founder
Little is known about the background of this ruler of a small principality in north-western Anatolia. Both the name of the dynasty and the empire that the dynasty established are derived from his name's Arabic form, Uthmān. He died in 1323/24.

Murad I: The first sultan
Ruling from 1360 to 1389, Murad oversaw rapid Ottoman expansion in Anatolia and the Balkans. During his reign, new forms of government and administration emerged to consolidate Ottoman rule. The Janissaries and the child-levy flowered under his stewardship.

Bayezid I: 'The Thunderbolt'
The most ambitious of the Ottoman leaders, Bayezid ruled from 1389-1402 and founded the first centralised Ottoman state based on traditional Muslim institutions. He also stressed the need to extend Ottoman conquest in Anatolia as well as waging war against the infidels.

Mehmet II: 'The Conqueror'
Mehmet ruled from 1444-46 and then again from 1451-81. Despite his youth, he overruled his advisers and conquered Constantinople, bringing down the Byzantine Empire and establishing what would remain the Ottoman heartland for the next 400 years.

Suleiman I: 'The Magnificent'
Sultan of the Ottoman Empire from 1520 to 1566, Suleiman's bold military campaigns expanded the realm – he evicted the Hospitallers from Rhodes and won the great victory at Mohacs – while making great strides in the fields of law, literature, architecture and art.



Mehmet the Conqueror's entry into the defeated city of Constantinople

The Empire Expands

Between the 14th and 16th centuries, the Ottoman Empire flowered, threatening the very heart of Europe

In the 1340s, civil war erupted within the Byzantine Empire and the Ottomans were invited to step into imperial affairs, leading to the capture of Gallipoli in 1354, their first foothold in Europe. They extended their influence into the continent when, in 1361, Murad I captured the city of Adrianople, which was renamed Edirne before emerging as the new Ottoman capital in 1365.

The Ottomans' freshly acquired territories now encircled Constantinople and the emperor, John V, signed a treaty that saw his once mighty city become little more than an Ottoman vassal.

With a European base at Edirne, the Ottomans struck out against the Balkans. The Serbian Empire was also burgeoning during this period, but the decisive battle of Kosovo in 1389, though claiming the life of Murad I, saw the Ottomans emerge victorious once again. Murad's son Bayezid succeeded his father and earned the name 'the Thunderbolt', such was his military prowess.

Claiming he would water his horse at the altar of St Peter's in Rome, he quelled rebellion within the empire before taking Bosnia and Bulgaria, and then finally coming face to face with Western Europe, winning his first engagement against European heavy cavalry at the battle of Nicopolis in 1396. The Ottomans did not escape without setbacks, and the rise of the fabled leader Tamerlane, the successor to the Mongols in the east, checked their power when defeating and capturing Bayezid at Anakara in 1402. It seemed as though the empire would disintegrate amid the power struggle that followed Bayezid's death.

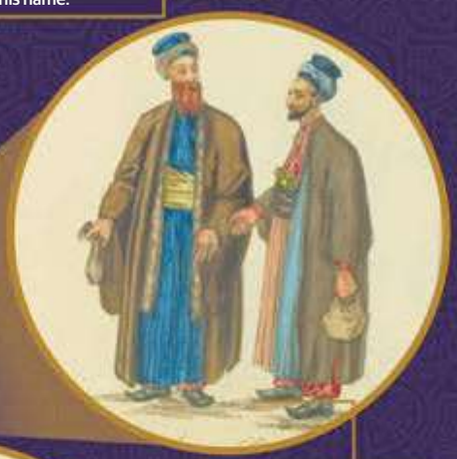
Ottoman fortunes began to revive, however, picking up pace when Sultan Murad II led the first, albeit unsuccessful, siege of Constantinople in 1422. He launched a Hungarian offensive in 1439 that culminated in one of the greatest Ottoman victories at Varna in 1444, where the Hungarians and Western crusading forces, which included the mighty Teutonic Knights, were heavily defeated.

It was Murad's successor, Mehmet II, who was to cement Ottoman power in the European sphere. Known to history as Mehmet the Conqueror, he finally toppled Constantinople in 1453 and ravaged

The Government Of The Ottoman Empire

The sultan
The sultan had absolute power, though he maintained a council of ministers called a Divan. All laws were made in his name.

The civil service
The Ottomans, like the Romans, enjoyed a powerful civil service with the Grand Vizier chief among them.



The millets
Non-Muslim communities were afforded independence and allowed to appoint their own religious leaders and laws.

The holy men
While the sultan was 'caliph', the successor to the Prophet Muhammad, the religious elite, or ulama, were important lawmakers.

The military elite
The standing army helped police the vast empire and the Ottomans used vassal kings and tribal chiefs to keep their subjects under control.

the Balkan states. In Greece, the Duchy of Athens surrendered in 1456 and the Ottomans soon conquered the Peloponnese.

The infamous Vlad Tepes (the Impaler) caused problems for the Ottomans in Wallachia and the Knights Hospitaller successfully defended Rhodes, though Mehmet remained unperturbed. He launched his most audacious campaign in 1480 with the invasion of Italy, causing panic in Western Europe. Italy was saved not by Europe's military might but by Mehmet's death in 1481.

In 1520, the man widely perceived as the Ottomans' greatest sultan, Suleiman 'the Magnificent', came to power, capturing Belgrade a year after his accession, taking the Hospitaller island of Rhodes the year after that and then winning his greatest victory in 1526 - when he brought about the collapse of Medieval Hungary.

From now on, the Ottomans would hammer away at the great empire of the Hapsburg dynasty as the rest of Europe trembled. They expanded into North Africa and fought many more famous battles — the Great Siege of Malta (1565), the capture of Cyprus, the great naval conflict at Lepanto (1571) and the slaughter at Kerestes (1596). The enemy was at the gates and war for the European heartland was not far behind.

Ottoman conquests 1481-1683

The Janissaries

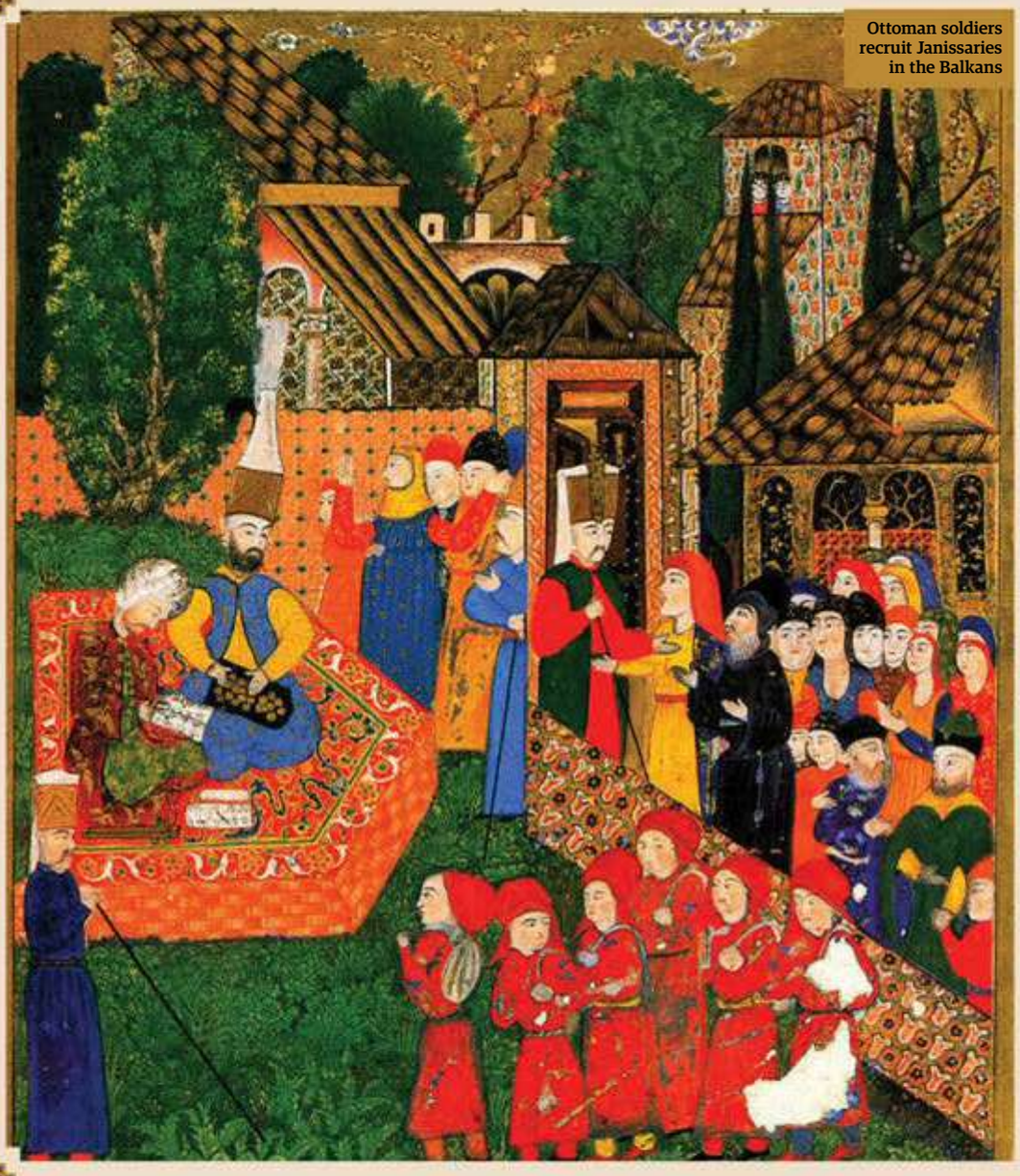
The Ottoman army was a fearsome machine, unlike anything else that Medieval Europe had ever seen, and their elite troops were the mighty Janissaries

In Medieval Europe, the Ottoman army was unique – the entire empire lived for war and one conquest fuelled the next. Even later in the empire's life, during the siege of Baghdad in 1683 when the Persians demanded the contest be settled by single combat, the sultan, Mehmet IV, stepped forward and cut down the Persian champion himself.

Unlike the European armies they so regularly routed, the Ottoman forces were full-time professionals. Chief among their myriad units were the Janissaries, the Ottoman elite infantry, who lived solely for war. Even marriage and family were forbidden to them.

Their only love was combat; the only person to who they owed loyalty was the sultan. They were his men, forming his personal bodyguard. They were recruited from Christian slave boys – to enslave fellow Muslims was contrary to religious law – though to describe the Janissaries as a slave-army fails to recognise the honour and prestige they enjoyed within the Ottoman Empire.

The boys surrendered little when they left their homes. Recruited mostly from the Balkan states, they left behind poverty in a rural life that offered little hope of professional advancement. Once converted to Islam, educated and trained, they became important players in an empire that admired martial ability and, as time developed, like the Praetorian Guard in ancient Rome they even became kingmakers, famously rebelling against Osman II in 1622 and restoring Mustapha to the Sultanate.



Ottoman soldiers recruit Janissaries in the Balkans

Recruitment

Murad I is widely regarded as the founder of the Janissary units following his recruitment of Christian prisoners of war into his army some time after 1377. It was a move that was enhanced by his successor, Bayezid, who introduced the 'gathering' during the 1380s, a levy on Christian boys, aged between eight and 18 years, from the Balkan states. "We light our lamp with oil taken from the hearts of the infidels," wrote the Sultan Mehmet II in the 1400s.

Ottoman officials would visit the Balkan villages every three to seven years and drafted the best-looking, strongest and most intelligent boys to be employed in service of the empire, either as soldiers (in the case of the Janissaries) or administrators or as palace servants.

In the earlier years of empire, the Ottomans were careful not to impoverish their subjects and so would absolve from the levy any boy who was the oldest or the only male child in his family, or any who was a widow's son, and they would never deplete a village of its entire stock. It was in the Ottoman interests to keep Balkan agriculture as buoyant as possible to fuel their empire and keep rebellions quiet. During the 1500s it is estimated that the yearly draft was about 1,000-3,000 boys.

Often families from poor mountain districts would volunteer their sons willingly, delighted to see them step onto the Ottoman career ladder. Though technically slaves, the Janissaries could maintain contact with their families and, as possessions of the Sultan himself, could not be bought or sold.

Anatomy of a Janissary

Hat
The Janissary's distinctive headgear featured a holding place for a simple wooden spoon attached to the front as a badge, signifying the shared comradeship among the troopers – who ate, fought and died together.

Robe
A felt coat called a capinat, which was both light and waterproof.

Uniform
The basic trooper wore blue wool, while senior officers had jackets trimmed with fur.

Wide breeches
Into which they stuffed their robes, so they did not hinder them while marching or fighting.

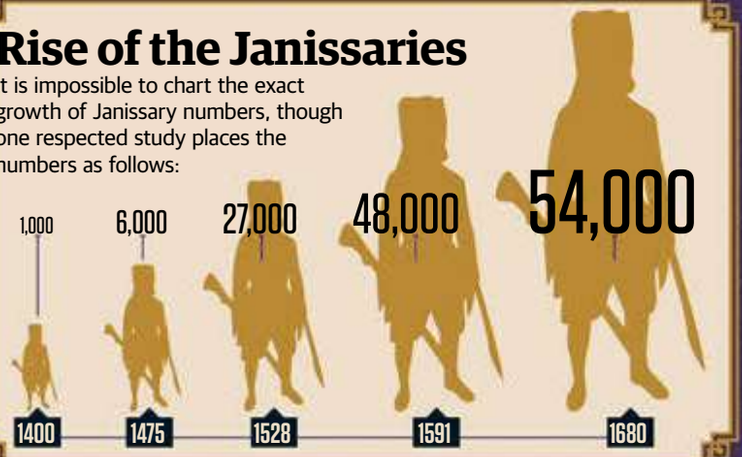
Arquebus
The first Janissaries were ace archers, and were quick to adopt firearms when they became readily available.

Axe
The small hand axe was useful in a tight melee, while palace guards carried long-shafted axes and halberds.

Yatagan sword
A light and single-edged curved blade that became one of the symbols of the corps.

Rise of the Janissaries

It is impossible to chart the exact growth of Janissary numbers, though one respected study places the numbers as follows:



Janissaries favoured the arquebus when firearms became readily available

Training

Once marched to the Ottoman capital – a test in itself – the boys were circumcised and converted to Islam. Most did this willingly and conversion back to Christianity was rare. They were then tested to discover their best potential, the brightest being selected for the palace schools and future jobs in the Ottoman palaces or civil service.

Those not selected for such lofty positions were marked for military duties and were hired out to Turkish villagers for up to seven years. After this service, they were then packed off to the training crops, with the majority trained for the regular infantry, learning weapon skills and strict discipline, as well as mathematics.

Some of the more promising were selected for education in the households of powerful families, where they were taught more technical skills such as gunnery and carriage driving.

The barrack life instilled a sense of loyalty among the recruits, who also acted as policemen and firemen when the main military bodies were away on campaign. They had the tradition of regimental life drummed into them during these formative years, swearing loyalty to their fellows upon a tray that contained salt, a *Koran* and a sword, though their ultimate fealty belonged to the sultan. Across the empire they were his eyes, his ears and his ultimate fighting machine.

The Fall of Constantinople

Though masters of the surrounding landscape, the toppling of Constantinople proved a symbolic victory for the Ottomans

It was Mehmet the Conqueror who launched the final assault on Constantinople and brought the last vestige of a once-mighty empire into the Ottoman fold. Though the city had long proved little more than a vassal state, he coveted the glory its fall would bring. Succeeding to the Sultanate in 1451, he swiftly mobilised his armies and picked off remaining Byzantine possessions along the Black Sea coast. In 1452, he erected a castle on the European shore of the Bosphorus, opposite a Turkish castle on the Asiatic shore, taking strategic command of this vital waterway.

The Turks now controlled all shipping in and out of the Black Sea and Mehmet's artillery were quick to sink a Venetian ship that defied his order to halt. Mehmet beheaded the crew and impaled the captain, Antonio Rizzi. "As Rizzi's body mouldered in the rain," writes one historian, "the Byzantines made their last, desperate appeals to the West." With the great trading states of Genoa, Venice and Ragusa deeply involved in mercantile activity with the Ottomans, and at odds among themselves, they offered little in the way of support to the Byzantines. The Holy Roman Emperor issued a stern warning to Mehmet, but it fell on deaf ears. The sultan had a warning of his own: the Byzantines should leave the city by 5 March 1453, or suffer his wrath.

The Attack

It has been said that Mehmet rallied the whole of his empire for the assault on Christendom's most easterly outcrop, and if figures of 300,000 men seem exaggerated, the forces assembled outside Constantinople's walls certainly dwarfed those inside, perhaps numbering as few as 12,000.

As the vast Turkish fleet sailed into the Sea of Marmara, a frightening weapon of war was uncovered before the city's outermost walls, a 28-foot cannon with the bronze of its barrel said to be eight inches thick. It had to be dragged into position by 700 men and 60 oxen.

Constantinople's stone defences were almost as formidable, comprising two sets of mighty walls dotted with towers. The emperor also ordered a mighty chain to be slung along the entrance to the Golden Horn, preventing any Turkish ships from launching an assault on the inner sea walls.

The Turks found the opening days difficult, their artillery proving less effective than they'd hoped against the city's lofty walls, while their siege towers were set ablaze and mining efforts repulsed. To add further insult, in April a small flotilla of supply ships successfully ran the Turkish blockade and safely entered the Golden Horn.

Mehmet upped his game and soon pulled off an extraordinary feat of engineering, building a wooden roadway from the Bosphorus to the Springs – over which he hauled 70 ships that took to the Golden Horn. He could now mount sea-borne assaults from much closer quarters.

On 29 May 1453, Mehmet launched his most intense assault, a simultaneous attack from land and sea, his Janissaries achieving the final victory as they pressed through a breached wall. It is presumed the brave Byzantine Emperor, Constantine, died while rallying his men.

With the city at the Ottomans' mercy, Mehmet allowed three days of looting and thousands of civilians were dragged off into slavery before the sultan took ownership of this renowned city and began its reconstruction as a Muslim metropolis.

The conquest of Constantinople in 1453

Why was the Ottoman Empire so successful?

A standing army

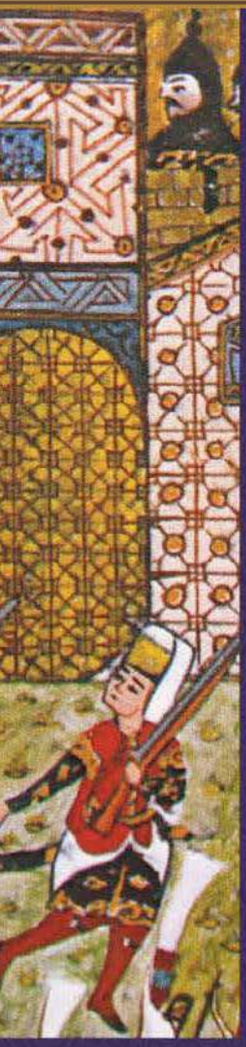
1 The Ottomans were the first since the Roman Empire to maintain a professional army with a brilliant logistical supply chain. While European rulers had to coax their squabbling lords into combat, the Ottomans could call into action a well-oiled war machine.

Excellent morale

2 The Ottoman army contained the Janissaries, who lived for war, while their other troops were often motivated by a religious fervour that demanded they wage war against the infidel. Their leaders successfully analysed strategy and tactics and kept morale high.

Flexible governance

3 While heavy-handed in conquest, the Ottomans were light-handed in governance, tolerating different religious dominations where conversion proved too difficult. They also maintained local laws and customs so that their subjects would better fuel the Ottoman war machine.



Bombardment begins 6 April

1 The Ottomans dig in along the Theodosian land wall and employ heavy artillery to batter the Byzantine defences, while the sappers bid to mine beneath the great towers. The Ottomans also use siege towers that loom higher than the city walls in an effort to destroy the defences.

A flotilla arrives 20 April

2 Three papal galleys and a Byzantine transport laden with corn from Sicily and other essential supplies take advantage of good winds to run across the Sea of Marmara. Turkish vessels bid to engage. A lethal game of cat and mouse ensues until finally the Christians reach the Golden Horn and are able to restock Constantinople.

Ships sail overland 22 April

3 Mehmet transports more than 70 vessels overland and into a river feeding the Golden Horn north. A surprise attack against this newly ensconced fleet goes awry and costs the Christians many lives, which they can ill afford to lose.

Final battle 28 May

4 The weakened walls in the north west suffer the brunt of an initial attack though Mehmet's levies, and Anatolian infantry are beaten back by frenzied Christian defence. A final attack by the elite Janissaries finally turns the tide.

The city falls 29 May

5 The Ottomans break through, with the Circus Gate breached, and the emperor is forced to fall back to the inner walls. Many commentators claim that he is killed in battle while leading the final doomed counter attack.

OTTOMANS
COMMANDER: MEHMET II
NO. OF SOLDIERS: 80,000-300,000
SHIPS: 90-125
NO. OF CASUALTIES: HEAVY, BUT UNKNOWN

BYZANTINES
COMMANDER: CONSTANTINE XI
NO. OF SOLDIERS: 7,000-12,000
SHIPS: 26
NO. OF CASUALTIES: ABOUT 4,000

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REVIEWS

All About History on the books, TV shows and films causing a stir in the history world

THE DAMNED

No one expects the Spanish Inquisition

Author Tarn Richardson **Publisher** Duckworth Overlook **Price** £12.99 **Released** 21 May

Question: how do you make a World War I setting even darker and more terrifying? Answer: throw in some of history's most enigmatic yet sinister villains, the Spanish Inquisitions. And some werewolves.

Despite having ceased functioning in actuality a large amount of the time, *The Damned* sees author Tarn Richardson positing an alternative reality where the Spanish Inquisition merely moved into the shadows, in the process giving them more license to carry out their work than ever before. All the rumours about their methods turn out to be even worse than you could have possibly envisaged, which takes a toll not only on their victims, but on the Inquisitors themselves.

One such individual is Poldek Tacit, an orphan brought into the church as a child and trained to be one of this elite group, whose years of committing the most twisted of acts has seen him become unhinged and hardened against any kind of human contact. When the church itself falls under attack from the forces of darkness, Tacit is immediately brought in to get to the bottom of things – although what he discovers may transpire to be even more than he can handle.

Although the premise might seem more like a *Family Guy* joke than the basis for a novel ("It reminds me of that time we were fighting werewolves with the Spanish Inquisition during World War I), the end result is an engaging and gripping read. The constant switching between narratives from different time periods (primarily depicting Tacit's life pre and post-Inquisition) helps to break things up and inject suspense, and helps add layers to Tacit's character. In the present day, he initially comes across as a token psychopath, but seeing the process by which his innocence is gradually erased helps sell him as a thr dimensional character.

Also aiding its accessibility is the fact that minimal knowledge of the subject matter is required to enjoy this story – the fact that you're reading this magazine in the first place says that you'll likely already possess whatever background knowledge is necessary for understanding it.

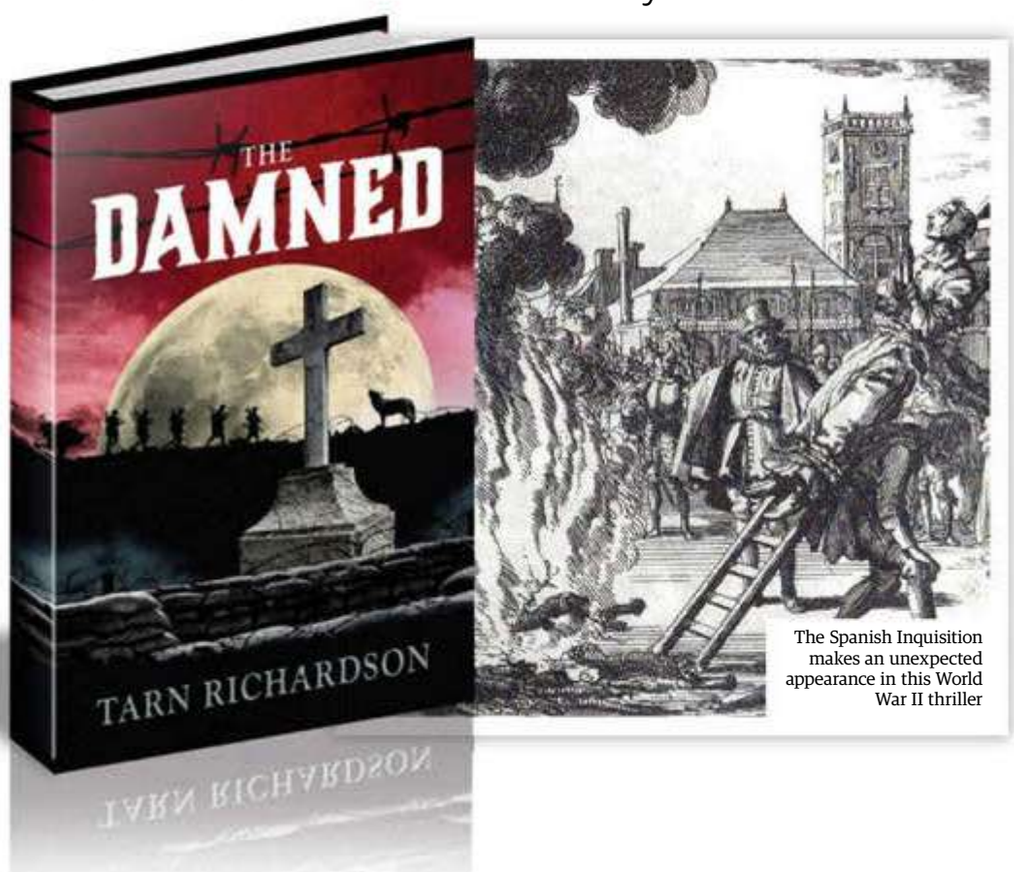
By often tackling the (numerous) death scenes from the perspective of the victims themselves, the brutality and horror of this time in history is hammered home. The war dead weren't just nameless faces, they were real people with families and their own lives, and Richardson does an efficient job of humanising them.

In terms of literary touchstones, Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* is the more obvious point of comparison, although unlike the mega-blockbuster, this doesn't claim any pretensions of being anything more than a great read. Similarly, Elizabeth Kostova's *The Historian* bears close comparison, due to the way in which Richardson intricately and effortlessly weaves historical fact with the more grandiose and far-fetched elements of fantasy fiction.

All in all then, Richardson has created a book that may not necessarily be the best read with regards to a historical grounding in World War I or the Spanish Inquisition, but has undoubtedly succeeded in creating a thoroughly entertaining read nonetheless.

Steve Wright

> "Richardson intricately weaves fact with the more grandiose and far-fetched elements of fantasy fiction"



The Spanish Inquisition makes an unexpected appearance in this World War II thriller

SCIENCE IN WONDERLAND

From dragons and fairies to dinosaurs and microbes

Author Melanie Keene **Publisher** Oxford University Press **Price** £16.99 **Released** 26 March

The 19th century was an age of discovery, where the population of the Western world experienced a quick transition from the realm of superstition and fairy tales to the textbooks of science.

The role of human beings in the history of the world was suddenly made less significant as the first palaeontologists began to pull the fossilised remains of ancient creatures out of chalk cliffs and quarries, while microscopes in laboratories revealed to the world living things far tinier than the naked eye could see.

Scientific fact, however, can often be far stranger and more wonderful than any conceivable fiction. In her snapshot of this society, Melanie Keene effectively conveys the sense of wonder felt across the world in a brief window of time where writers leveraged the Victorian fascination with dragons, fairies and fey magic to teach people about this esoteric new world of science.

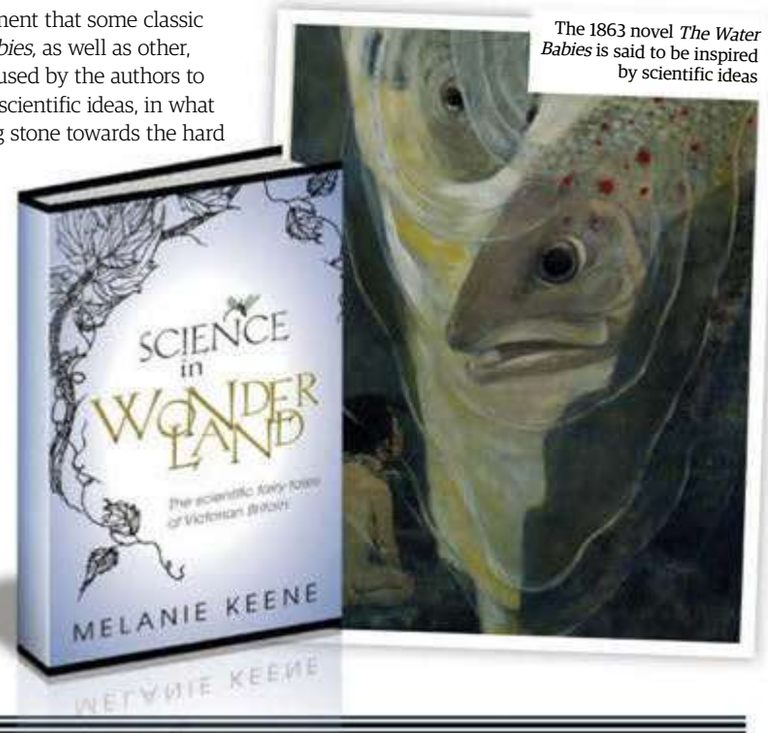
This method worked; apparently somewhat too well, as some Victorians clearly took these allegorical stories to be as true as the scientific concept it intended to teach.

Keene pursues the argument that some classic tales such as *The Water Babies*, as well as other, lesser-known stories, were used by the authors to criticise and communicate scientific ideas, in what was a generational stepping stone towards the hard science that emerged in the 20th century.

For scholars of the sciences, this book is a great insight into the minds of the Victorian layman and the people who tried to teach the new methods.

Those who study literature or history will get a broader idea of the origins of literary works from a fascinating era. But this really is a book that anyone with an inquiring mind can pick up and relate to.

Ben Biggs

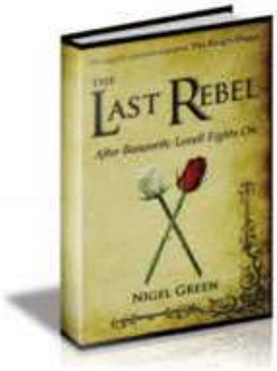


The 1863 novel *The Water Babies* is said to be inspired by scientific ideas

THE LAST REBEL:
AFTER BOSWORTH: LOVELL FIGHTS ON

Fictionalised history at its finest

Publisher Stellar Books **Price** £7.99 **Released** Out now



The Battle of Bosworth and the victory of Henry Tudor is a story that has been told countless times, but what we rarely hear is: what happened to the losers? Nigel Green takes us on the road less travelled by and tells just this, in his semi-fictionalised account of their rebellion against the newly crowned king.

A sequel to Green's earlier novel *The King's Dogge*, the story picks up at the end of the Battle of Bosworth, when Yorkist loyalist Francis Lovell realises the fate of his friend and king Richard III. Determined to uphold his vow of allegiance to the house of York, Lovell flees north to build an army of resistance, with an aim of putting Richard's imprisoned nephew on the throne.

The Last Rebel is an impeccably well-researched piece of work, seamlessly combining historical accounts with believable fictional fill-ins.

Green is a master of dialogue, giving his characters voices that fit the place and time of the novel and add to its believability. The novel is fast paced and packed full unforeseen twists and turns, along with dramatic battle scenes and nail-biting escape stories that are bound to leave you on the edge of your armchair. The author succeeds in keeping the reader hooked throughout, although at times this can come at the expense of the character development. Despite this, Green covers enough ground to ensure that *The Last Rebel* reads fluently as a standalone novel, without needing to have read the prequel.

Overall, this is a thrilling and thoroughly enjoyable novel that will appeal to even the most casual of historians, and one that is sure to redefine your ideas of courage, loyalty and determination.

Alicea Francis

The Battle of Bosworth saw the fall of Richard III and the house of York

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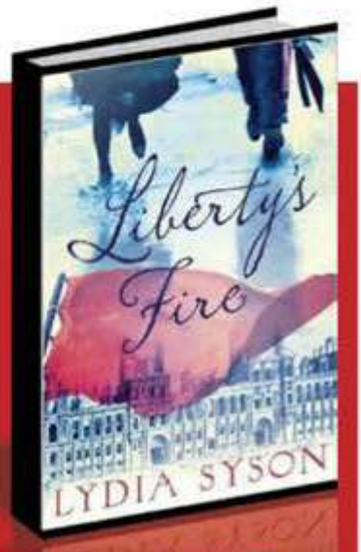
LIBERTY'S FIRE A revolution extinguished

Author Lydia Syson **Publisher** Hot Key Books **Price** £7.00 **Released** 7 May 2015



Paris in 1871 is a time of political and social turmoil. After the Prussian siege, the city is in revolt and its citizens are searching for a new way to live their lives. It is here that we join the intertwined stories of Jules the photographer, Zéphyrine the orphan, Marie the opera singer and Anatole the violinist.

Unfortunately, despite their initial engaging qualities, these characters are conveniently capable of massive personality shifts from one scene to the next, depending on what is apparently needed. Zéphyrine is the worst offender, flitting from damsel to revolutionary in a heartbeat – one minute portrayed as an intellectual thinker fallen on hard times, the next falling asleep at a women's politics meeting – but all four of our main players are guilty of it. And it isn't simply a case of unrealistic character progression. At times their behaviour makes it feel as though these are four entirely different people to the ones we've been introduced to.

But, for all its irritations in terms of character, Syson paints a beautiful picture of Paris. From the Hotel de Ville to the Theatre Lyrique, the city is realised in loving detail. It's a shame that the action shifts from the contemplative American photographer Jules to his excitable violinist room-mate Anatole, though, as Jules' perspective on the revolution and fallout thereafter are considerably more engaging than Anatole's increasingly whirlwind passions of politics and Zéphyrine.

The main issue is that there just seems to be no real drama, despite the revolutionary setting. Neither of the main characters seem to fall in love for any real reason other than proximity, while minor disagreements or concerns between characters seem to just sort of resolve themselves, leaving the threat of conflict in Paris the more impending worry. And even that prompt of high-stakes drama just isn't given the violent reality it deserves. Neither the history of the conflict nor the blossoming love story are given the space they need, leaving us with a readable but ultimately light-in-meaning tale of half-baked friendship and poorly-realised love in what is, admittedly, a fascinating time period.

Rebecca Richards

The events leading to the Siege of Paris made France a turbulent place to be

HISTORY of WAR RECOMMENDS...

Great Battles: Waterloo

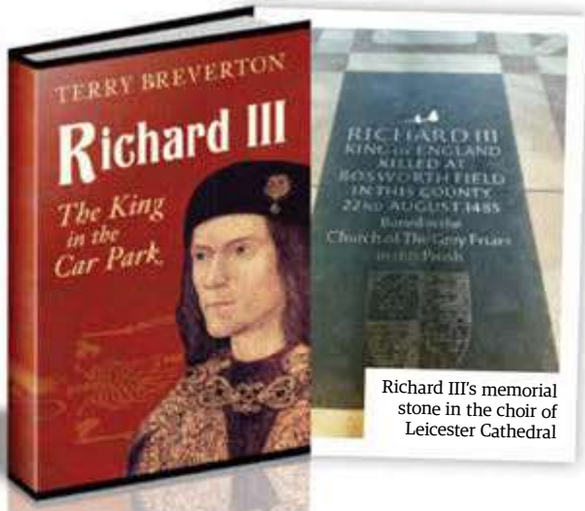
Author: Alan Forrest **Price:** £18.99
Publisher: Oxford University Press

With this year marking the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, interest in the battle is rising. If you're after an exhaustive critique of the battle, be warned, as Forrest takes a different slant on Waterloo, focusing on what came after. Overall, this book is arguably more interesting for looking beyond the action on the battlefield and into the political landscape of a continent constantly at war with itself.

RICHARD III: THE KING IN THE CAR PARK How the controversial king's memory was muddled

Author Terry Breverton **Publisher** Amberley **Price** £9.99 **Released** 4 February 2015

When Richard III's bones were found underneath a car park in Leicester, interest in one of Britain's most polarising monarchs rocketed. This prompted a surge in accounts of his life, one of which was *Richard III: The King In The Car Park*. Terry Breverton has crafted a well-researched book on Richard III's rise to power and subsequent fall from grace. He takes us through the monarchs of the Plantagenet, Lancaster and York dynasties, detailing how each came to the throne, by birth, marriage or deception.



Richard III's memorial stone in the choir of Leicester Cathedral

Breverton's writing is mixed in style, making for a slightly disjointed book. There are many interesting and well-written passages, especially when digging into the characters of the protagonists and antagonists, building up a fascinating picture of this turbulent time in history. However, there are also periods in which the reader feels bombarded with dates, names and titles. These sections are quite hard to take in and often have to be re-read.

Further confusion is created in the names of the people involved. By switching between their names and their titles, Breverton attempts to keep the narrative varied but at times it just gets confusing who Gloucester, Edward, Buckingham or Elizabeth are, especially when so many people share the same first name or have inherited a title. There are also times when he refers to something that has already been discussed, creating a slightly messy timeline, although these back references often help jog the memory.

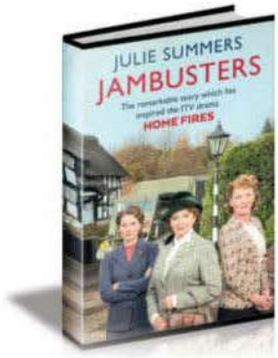
This is a really interesting biography of a man whose name has become shrouded in mystery and is well worth a read, but be prepared for the occasional slog.

Jamie Frier

JAMBUSTERS:
THE STORY OF THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Far more than simply jam and Jerusalem

Author Julie Summers **Publisher** Simon & Schuster **Price** £8.99 **Released** Out now



When World War II broke out, the Women's Institute found itself in a tricky position. Officially a pacifist organisation, it saw its membership fall as members left to join the war service, but those that remained were aware just how powerful they were.

With more than 300,000 members dotted all over the country, the WI were already in position to help keep Britain operating through the war.

Unpaid and often unacknowledged, *Jambusters* sheds light on the very real and significant contributions of the women of the WI, who did far more than simply make jam. This excellently researched and compelling read introduces the stories of individual, real members of the WI, as well as the role the organisation was taking as a whole. Rather than a collection of facts and figures, *Jambusters* paints a vivid and detailed picture of women 'getting on with it' in a country that had been turned upside down.

Using records, archives, letters, diaries and interviews with wartime members themselves, *Jambusters* is an accurate and fitting homage to the inspiring and astonishing contributions the Women's Institute made during World War II.

Although this would be a perfect read for any serving WI members, or those who had relatives in the organisation during the war, it is also a compelling read for anyone interested in this period of history, or women's history as a whole. *Jambusters* is far more than an informative non-fiction, it is a story of survival, of determination against the odds, and of the private battles that all the mothers, wives, sisters, nurses, schoolteachers and daughters quietly fought with no promise of glory or medals.

Frances White

Thousands of tons of fruit were boiled in WI preservation centres

The WI made potato baskets for the Ministry of Agriculture

Among other activities, the WI collected herbs for medicinal purposes

Interview with... Julie Summers

How important was the WI during World War II?
It was the largest voluntary women's organisation in the country that was non-military. At the outbreak of the war it had 328,000 members, with institutes in one in three English and Welsh villages. The most useful thing about that was the government only needed to ring the general secretary in London to have the ears of a third of a million women throughout England and Wales, and that was an incredibly powerful thing. Because it was a pacifist organisation, it couldn't do work directly connected to the military aspect of the war effort, but it could work on food production and any other voluntary work that needed doing to keep the countryside ticking.

You must have come across incredible stories while writing this book. Do any in particular stand out?
Some characters stood out to me. I think universally what impressed me was how women just got on with it without making a fuss. Whatever they were asked to do, it was no problem, they didn't really draw the line at anything. When they were asked to write a report on housing or evacuees – it happened, if they were asked to make jam – no problem.

***Jambusters* inspired new ITV drama *Home Fires*. Did you have much input in making the show?**
Into the actual production, nothing at all, however, I was very lucky that the scriptwriter Simon Block involved me right from the beginning in his ideas for the storytelling. I didn't come up with any ideas as such, but I would comment on tone and colour of the history and I was very keen that Simon understood the mood of the country in the first years of the war. He wanted to get a sense of how the WI was perceived in the village, so all of that kind of background hue I could help with. I read every single script several times and was able to say "no, the WI didn't do that until 1942," or "yes, that's perfect." And it was lovely to do that, very special indeed.

What can people expect from *Home Fires*?
It's a sort of microcosm of life in rural Britain during World War II and shines a light on the role that women played in it. It's a drama, so it has all the ingredients a drama has to have – it'll make people laugh, gasp, cry. The women are so authentic and although they're not based on the ones in the book, I think if any of the women in my book had walked onto the set they would have recognised the type of women there.

In the book you mentioned that you cameo in the show. That must have been pretty incredible?
It was. What was really special was that I hadn't realised until I first went up on set the impact it would have on me, on seeing the world I know so well in black-and-white photos come alive. It was very moving; I wept when I saw it. All the women were authentically 1940s. It was extraordinary, like walking back into history. When we saw the crew in their 21st-century clothes, it looked like they had come from a different planet, it was just bizarre. And magical.

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Where is this?

Tell us which part of the UK is home to this 19th-century castle to win

Is it in...

A. England
B. Wales
C. Scotland

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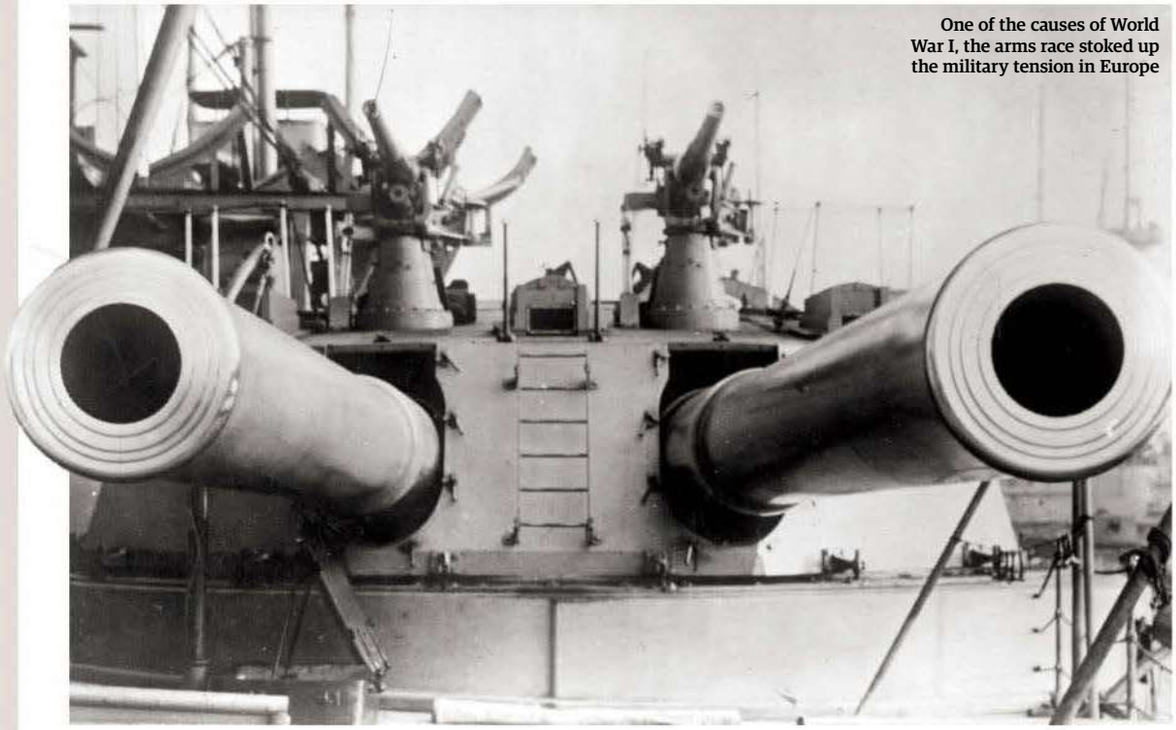


One of the causes of World War I, the arms race stoked up the military tension in Europe

Which nation was the winner of the Anglo-German arms race?

Neil Bull, Cheltenham

In 1906, Britain launched the HMS Dreadnought. Weighing in at 17,900 tons (15,422 kilograms) with ten 30-centimetre (12-inch) guns, it represented a new era of naval warfare. The German Empire was watching the British developments and began building a fleet to match the Royal Navy.

War wasn't on the agenda at this point. The aim was instead to claim as many international colonies as possible. Huge amounts of money were thrown at the navies as both nations tried to outdo each other.

By the start of World War I in 1914, Britain had 29 Dreadnoughts to Germany's 17. The British had won in the quantity stakes but the German vessels had better armour and their sailors were better trained.

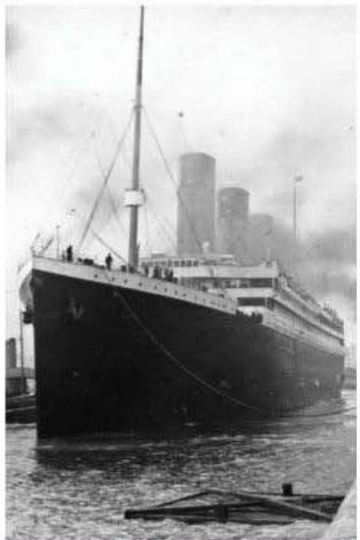
In the end, the whole arms race was more a show than an act of strength. During the war, there was only one major naval skirmish at the Battle of Jutland, which ended with an inconclusive result.

Over the four years, both navies were generally too afraid to engage each other for fear of losing their ships. It was Britain who won the race and the war but by the end of 1918, the Washington Naval Treaty kick-started an era of disarmament and the ships were dismantled.

Will the RMS Titanic ever be resurfaced?

Jason Miller, Sunderland

Resurfacing it is unlikely, but there is a plan to construct a new Titanic from scratch. Initially intended for a 2016 launch, the Titanic II would be an exact replica of the original White Star Line ship, from first class down to third. Its only changes would be new, modernised safety and performance measures such as a welded rather than a riveted hull and stabilisers to reduce roll when at sea. The proposal was most recently funded by Australian billionaire Clive Palmer until he ran into financial trouble. The project is currently on hiatus until new funds can be found.



The legacy of the ship and its ill-fated maiden voyage continues to be popular

This day in history 30 April

311 – Christian persecution ends

For many years in the Roman Empire, followers of Christianity were rounded up and killed for their beliefs. However, as its base grows, it gradually becomes the main religion of Rome and flourishes under Emperor Constantine.

1492 – Columbus gains commission of exploration

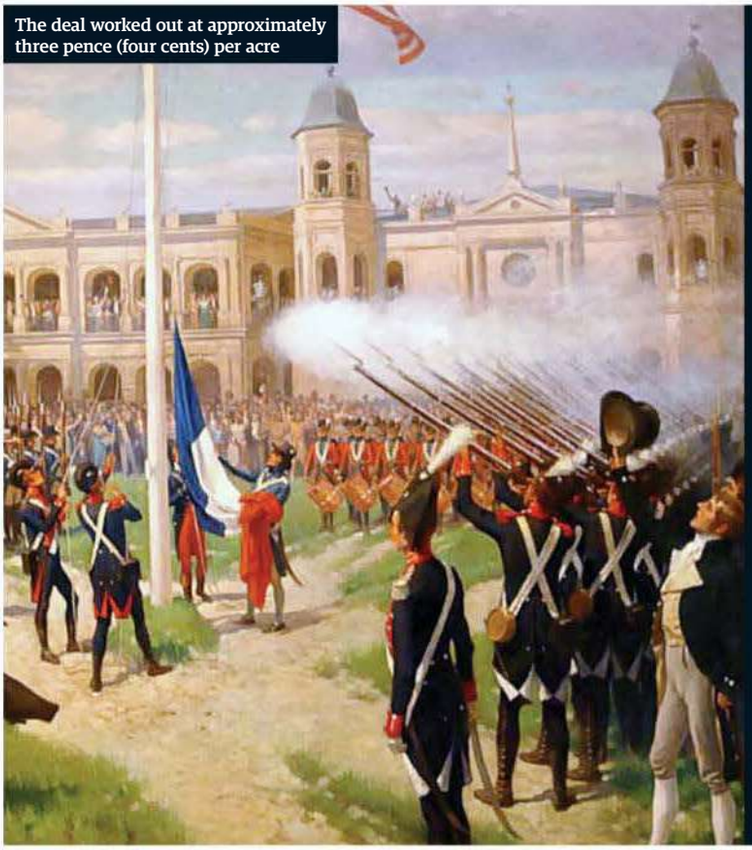
A watershed moment in the discovery of the New World, Christopher Columbus gains the commission of exploration from the Spanish crown. He will set sail in the Pinta, Nina and Santa Maria.

1938 – First televised FA cup final

The FA Cup final between Preston North End and Huddersfield Town becomes the first game to be put in front of BBC cameras. The match at Wembley Stadium ends with a 1-0 win to Preston.

1945 – Hitler commits suicide

With the Red Army advancing ever closer, the dictator of the Third Reich decides all is lost. The Führer, along with his wife Eva Braun, takes a cyanide pill as Berlin falls around them.



The deal worked out at approximately three pence (four cents) per acre

What was the Louisiana Purchase?

Nicholas Spencer, Warwick

The Louisiana Purchase may well be the biggest exchange of land in history. Completed on 20 October 1803 by President Thomas Jefferson, the deal gave the USA 530,000,000 acres (214,483,390 hectares) of territory and was worth $15 million (£10.1 million). The land grab doubled the size of the United States as it expanded further west to the Rocky Mountains. The land was bought off France, as Napoleon decided that territory in the New World was not cost effective and instead used the money to finance wars in Europe. The USA was keen to gain new territory and desired the southern port of New Orleans. If they could take hold of this settlement, they could utilise the Mississippi River to transport resources further north. The Louisiana Purchase would go on to contain 13 of the current states and add 100,000 new people to the population of the rapidly growing USA.

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Nothing better than a week off work and feet up on a Thursday afternoon reading latest **@AboutHistoryMag** #historygeek **@MissRuthieM**

Got No.23 of All About History mag for Mother's Day, chuffed with this especially as it's featuring Tut. Great issue **@AboutHistoryMag** **@dbrock82**

@AboutHistoryMag The troops absorbed Austria? I was unaware it had been an ocean. #antecedents **@bearringer**

To celebrate my tax rebate I bought a copy of Puzzler and the latest **@AboutHistoryMag**. Having a geek out. #TreatYoSelf **@Shayshie**

Why was Julius Caesar assassinated?

Liam Jenkins, Dover

The forces of Julius Caesar defeated his rival Pompey in 47 BCE, ending civil war, after which the senator declared himself the all-powerful dictator of Rome. Caesar's rise to power was met with disdain in some quarters of the Roman Senate, so a group of conspirators led by Brutus set out to murder him and restore the republic. On 15 March, the men surrounded Caesar and stabbed him 23 times, quickly killing the most influential man in Rome.

Caesar was dictator for less than a year when he was assassinated

MARCUS JUNIUS BRUTUS

Born: 85 BCE
Died: 42 BCE

Brief Bio

The leader of the assassination was once a supporter of Caesar but changed his allegiance to Pompey during the civil war. He was officially pardoned, but conspired against Caesar when he declared himself dictator. After the assassination, Brutus was driven out of Rome and began a new life in Asia.

Did Nazi Germany have plans to invade Ireland? Find out at...
historyanswers.co.uk

1952

Anne Frank published

The Diary Of Anne Frank is first published in England. The book is an account of Jewish suffering under the Nazi regime and tells the story of when the teenager and her family were living and hiding in Amsterdam.

1961

Soviet K-19 commissioned

The first submarine to be equipped with nuclear missiles, the Soviet K-19, is commissioned on this day. Throughout its service, the submarine will be riddled with issues and suffer from several breakdowns, accidents and fires.

1973

Watergate scandal

Richard Nixon takes full responsibility for the Watergate scandal as many of his closest aides resign. The president, however, denies any personal involvement in the affair as the saga rumbles on.

1975

Vietnam War ends

The city of Saigon surrenders as the Viet Cong take control of the South Vietnamese capital. With the US troops long gone from the conflict, the president, Duong Van Minh, orders the laying down of arms and the cease of hostilities.

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Eric and other relatives of the Prisoners of War at Kinkaseki camp visit the mine and meet a survivor

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Prisoner of War

Eric Ward

My father was Russell V Ward, a Lance Bombardier in the Royal Artillery of the 5th Field Regiment during World War II. When Singapore fell in 1942, he, with thousands of others, was confined in a prison camp in the Changi area. There, the prisoners suffered instances of brutality on a daily basis and a severe shortage of food, but this was no indication of the horrors and atrocities that lay ahead for him.

During October 1942, hundreds of POWs, my father among them, were confined in the holds of the Japanese ship England Maru and began a hellish three-week voyage to Taiwan. The first camp my father and others were taken to was No 6 Camp – Taihoku, where they were forced to do hard manual labour clearing land. The unlucky ones were taken direct to Kinkaseki Camp. This became known as the infamous Copper Mine Camp, where the POWs were semi starved and brutally beaten with hammers if they did not mine the required quota of copper every day. As prisoners died from malnourishment and the inhumane treatment, fresh men were transferred in from other camps. In 1943, my father and others were taken from Taihoku Camp to Kinkaseki Copper Mine Camp.

My father had joined the British Army in India, where he had been born and brought up in the days of the Raj in the hillside town of Darjeeling. On transfer to the UK in about 1938, he met and married my mother. She was settled in our small Welsh village of Rhuddlan near the seaside resort of Rhyl. On his arrival at Kinkaseki Camp, my father saw a young POW of about 20 years of age.

Send your memories to: @ allabouthistory@imagine-publishing.co.uk

Ward (middle row with sideways hat) and other prisoners of war recovering in Australia

A typical midday meal issued to the prisoners

A sculpture in Kinkaseki camp depicting the importance of friendship between Prisoners of War

On his hat he had written the words "Sunny Rhyl" and my father discovered that the man, named Eifion Roberts, was a native of Rhuddlan.

The two young men from a small Welsh village had met on the other side of the world in the hell that was Kinkaseki. Until early 1945 they worked together as drillers down the mine suffering all the cruelties that the Japanese could administer to them. They survived on several small balls of rice a day and were subjected to the threat of daily beatings and deadly diseases.

Around March 1945, the mine was becoming unproductive and the Japanese had begun to realise that they could lose the war. Eifion was transferred to another camp and my father joined a large group of POWs being taken to Kukutsu Camp, otherwise known as the Jungle Camp. They had to walk up to ten miles along steep jungle paths while carrying heavy loads, often collapsing and being beaten. It was later discovered that the Japanese had never intended any of them to survive and wished to hide the history of the atrocities they committed. Thanks to sudden American air raids and the dropping of supplies of food and medicines, they were eventually rescued, many of them weighing just five or six stone.

My father was taken to Manilla on the USS Block Island, and from there to Sydney on the HMS Formidable to recover. When he returned to the UK, I met him for the first time at the age of six. He and Eifion remained life-long friends. My father suffered a chronic chest condition for the rest of his life, dying in 1992, and Eifion died just three years ago.

For more information on the Taiwan POW Camps, please see the Taiwan POW Society's website at: **www.powtaiwan.org**.

Do you have any family stories to share? /AllAboutHistory @AboutHistoryMag

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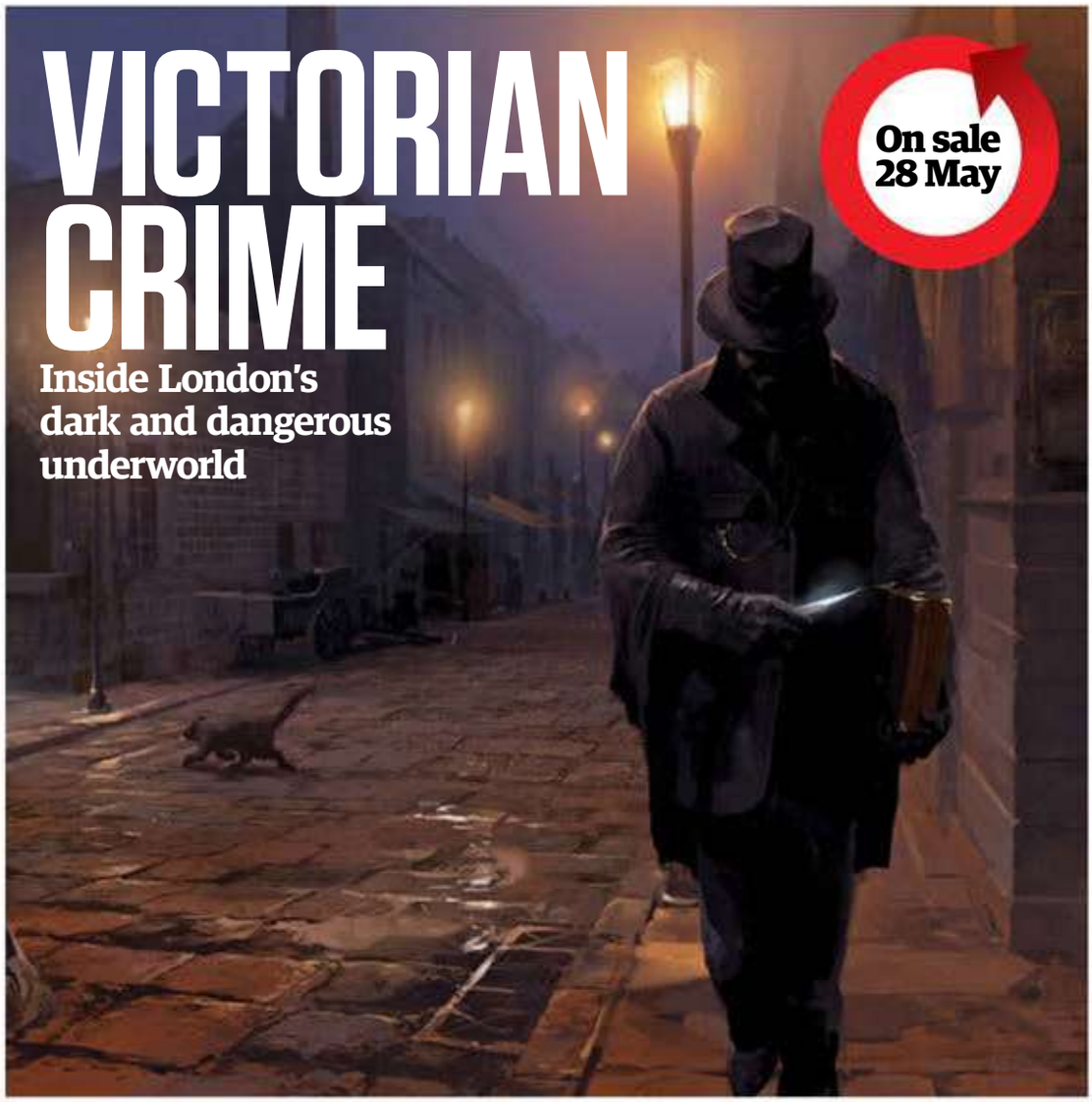

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HISTORY VS HOLLYWOOD

Fact versus fiction on the silver screen

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

Director: John Madden **Starring:** Gwyneth Paltrow, Joseph Fiennes, Geoffrey Rush **Country:** USA **Released:** 1998

Do we protest too much about this depiction of Shakespeare's life?

VERDICT A tongue-in-cheek portrayal that doesn't stray too far from reality

WHAT THEY GOT WRONG...

01 In the film, Elizabeth attends a performance of *Romeo And Juliet* in disguise, then reveals herself at the end. Although this is used as a plot point, it's very improbable that Elizabeth would have attended plays, rather the performances would have been brought to her.

02 When Marlowe is murdered, a crowd of jubilant men and women are seen celebrating in a tavern with flowing cups of ale. The glaring inaccuracy here for any Elizabethan era expert is the glass beakers. These should be made of pewter or wood.

03 Throughout the film, Shakespeare is seen writing and planning what will ultimately be *Romeo And Juliet*, but starts as 'Romeo and Ethel'. This would not have been the case as the story of *Romeo And Juliet* was well known before Shakespeare's adaptation of it.

04 The character of Lord Wessex repeatedly mentions his plans to take Viola to a plantation he owns in Virginia. Considering the events of the movie are said to occur in 1593, there would be no plantations in Virginia to take her to for another 20 years.

WHAT THEY GOT RIGHT...

Many of the characters within the film have clearly been researched. John Webster, Philip Henslowe and Ned Alleyn are just a few examples of people who existed. Henslowe and Alleyn especially are presented realistically, with their personalities and eccentricities based on the diaries left behind by the men themselves.

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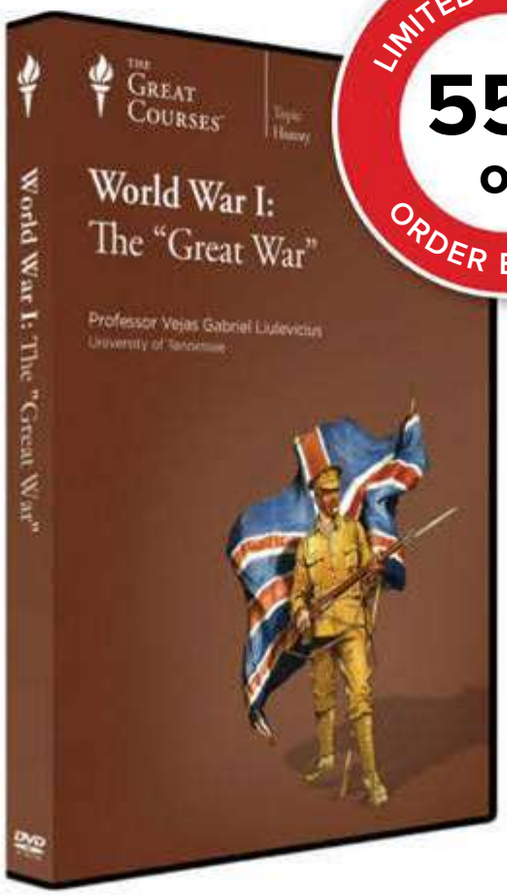

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